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AGRI-NEWS

MAY 23 19

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Deadline for Summer Farm Employment Program applicants.....1

Wheat situation and outlook.....3

Oilseed situation and outlook.....5

Feedgrain situation and outlook.....7

Alberta's top 4-H speakers.....9

Beware of buying untested swine breeding stock.....11

Market garden grant available again.....13

Maintain your dugout this spring.....15

Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan-apply until September 30.....18

Swine Improvement Program announces new genetic evaluation system..21

Rural lenders study agriculture.....23

Agricultural and community services branch head appointed.....25

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Deadline for Summer Farm Employment Program applicants

Once again, the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program, running July 2 through August 31, 1986, will provide valuable work experience for Alberta youth.

About 29,000 young people have participated in the program since it started 14 years ago.

The deadline for receipt of applications for employment under the program is May 30, 1986. "The limit of 800 students is expected to be reached well before the date so I urge anyone interested to apply as soon as possible," says Bernie Yakimyshyn, coordinator of special employment programs with Alberta Agriculture.

Under the program any Alberta farmer can hire a student, provided they and the student are not related. The Alberta government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $300.

Prospective students must be at least 15 years old and they must have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. Applicants must be residents of Alberta for the last three consecutive years, and they must be legally entitled to work in Canada. They must also be prepared to work for at least one month and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

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Deadline for Summer Farm Employment Program applicants (cont'd)

Applications from potential employers who wish to participate in the program will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to farmers who did not participate last year.

Both employee and employer application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists and from Canada farm labor pool offices.

Mr. Yakimyshyn says that the benefits of the program are two-fold: while young people are learning important skills and information about the world of work, employers are getting extra jobs done well.

Further information on the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program can be obtained from Bernie Yakimyshyn or Bruce Jantzie, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, phone 427-2186.

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Contact: Bernie Yakimyshyn
or
Bruce Jantzie
427-2186

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Wheat situation and outlook

World wheat production again exceeded consumption in 1985-86. The United States has reduced its level of producer support which until now has resulted in relatively stable international prices and most of the wheat surplus being held by the United States.

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that since markets for hard red spring wheat have been relatively stable and the 1985 Canadian crop was small, Canadian supplies have been kept close to pipeline levels. He says that with a normal crop in 1986 there may be a small buildup in stocks in 1985-86. Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) initial payments have been reduced by $30 per tonne to reflect the lower international prices expected as a result of the lower level of support provided by U.S. farm programs.

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Wheat situation and outlook (cont'd)

It's expected that prices realized by Alberta producers for the 1986 crop will be the lowest since 1977-78 and will extend for a sixth year a down trend in prices. Mr. Walkers says, however, that farmers should be able to market almost all their crop again in 1986-87.

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Contact: David Walker
427-7132

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Oilseed situation and outlook

Fred Boyce, Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, advises farmers to take advantage of any late spring rally to price old crop canola and lock in a portion of new crop production.

He reports that oilseed prices have declined steadily during this crop year. Vegetable oil prices have very little support in the face of record palm oil production and expanding stocks of soyoil. It's expected that soyoil prices will remain under pressure and values may decline further.

World oilseed production for the 1985-86 crop year is forecast at a record 192.8 million tonnes. With the exception of cottonseed production, all oilseeds exceeded the previous year's total. Potential vegetable oil production is estimated at 46.1 million tonnes, an increase of nearly four per cent. Most of this increase is attributed to coconut, palm and palm kernel oil. The increased output of oilseeds, especially soybeans, will boost protein meal output to 99.3 million tonnes.

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Oilseed situation and outlook (cont'd)

Production of Canadian oilseeds reached nearly 5.5 million tonnes in 1985-86. Canadian oilseed exports to date have been higher than last year. Total flax exports are expected to reach 650,000 tonnes. Canola exports may reach 1.5 million tonnes. Domestic usage is forecast at 1.2 million tonnes and carryover stocks are expected to rise to 850,000 tonnes.

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Contact: Fred Boyce
427-5383

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Feedgrain situation and outlook

With Canadian barley prices continuing to slide and the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) announcement of a $30 per tonne decline in Initial Payments for feed barley to $80 per tonne, many farmers will be reconsidering their planting options, says Al Dooley, Alberta Agriculture market economist.

Record world coarse grain production for the second consecutive year, in conjunction with relatively stable total consumption, has created a situation of burdensome supplies. The decline in loan rates resulting from the 1985 U.S. farm bill and intense international competition for export market share continue to pressure coarse grain prices.

Barley production in Alberta declined in 1985 to 4.6 million tonnes or an average of 40.4 bushels per acre over the entire 5.2 million acres harvested for grain. The 1985 crop is the second in a row to suffer from the effects of a summer drought. Production of oats and rye also declined, again a result of the dry conditions prevailing in southern Alberta. Irrigated corn grain production showed a slight increase over 1984 production levels.

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Feedgrain situation and outlook (cont'd)

Barley prices in Alberta have undergone large swings over the course of the 1985-86 crop year. Local prices have trended down since the beginning of the crop year, from $140 per tonne in August 1985 to under $100 per tonne in April 1986. Prices of oats and feed wheat followed a similar pattern.

With relatively low CWB quotas, local feed grain prices could fall more rapidly during the last quarter of the current crop year. Lower prices for local feedgrains will encourage domestic use for livestock feeding causing feedgrain movement to remain active. A turnaround in prices, however is not expected.

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Contact: Al Dooley
427-4002

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta's top 4-H speakers

Left to right: Sherry Clark, Regional Director - Airdrie;
Rob Smith, Jill Hueppelsheuser; Sherry Roth;
Keith McKinnon, Director, Calgary Exhibition and Stampede

Rob Smith of Olds is this year's provincial champion 4-H public speaker.

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Alberta's top 4-H speakers (cont'd)

Smith's two speeches, "Leadership Skills - You Can't Go Without Them" and "The Importance of Agriculture" took top honors at the recent 4-H provincial championship at Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.

More than 5000 4-H members participate in speech activities with Alberta's 489 clubs. The provincial competition is the summit of the competitive side of the program.

Fourteen finalists from rural Alberta competed in the championship speak-off, with Jill Hueppelsheuser of Blackfalds placing second, Sherry Roth of Heisler placing third.

The speaking championship was jointly sponsored by Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and Alberta Agriculture. The 4-H club program features 30 different project areas and is open to young people between the ages of 10 and 21.

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Contact: Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Beware of buying untested swine breeding stock

Lately there seems to be considerable interest in new and different breeds and bloodlines of swine breeding stock. The temptation is great to try some of these just to see how they'll perform compared to conventional breeds in hopes that they'll have something new, exciting or different to offer. Art Lange, with Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, suggests that before succumbing to this temptation, swine producers should be aware of the potential risks of this route.

If a new boar is brought into the herd whose performance is unknown there is a possibility that market index and growth rate of the resulting market pigs could be adversely affected. For example, if the new boar settles only 15 sows per week for a year and the resulting 624 pigs have a market index two points lower than the herd average the resulting loss would be $1250 in a 65-cent market. Also, for every extra day the resulting market pigs spend in the feeder barn, it will cost an extra 65 cents in feed alone not considering overcrowding. For 624 pigs this amounts to an extra $400. If the new sire adds an extra two days, this costs an extra $800 for a total of about $2000 in lost revenue and/or extra cost.

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Beware of buying untested swine breeding stock (cont'd)

Mr. Lange says that the major problem is that consequences will not be noticed until nine months after the boar is first used. By this time some irreversible damage will have been done. Also, unless producers have excellent breeding records, it is almost impossible to pinpoint the causes of this type of production problem.

Admittedly, there is a chance that new and different stock may add something to a producer's present population but without thorough testing it will never be known what that may be. In a period of slim profit margins, producers are advised to stay with tested and proven breeding stock. Dabbling in the unknown should be left to those who have the money, time and inclination to experiment in that area.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Market garden grant available again

If you are a market gardener, you may be eligible for financial assistance under Alberta's Market Garden Development Grant Program. It provides funds to eligible market gardeners of up to $750 per hectare (2.47 acres or 107,640 square feet) of vegetables and/or fruit.

The program was initiated to increase market gardening in Alberta by providing assistance to growers in the form of grants to be used for buying seed, fertilizers, gardening equipment, etc.

To be eligible for a grant, a market gardener must grow and market all his produce from a minimum of one hectare. The grant covers all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberry and strawberry plants that are bearing fruit. The vegetables and fruit must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold through a recognized marketing channel.

Since a market gardener is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, anybody who has already received a grant for two years under the Market Garden Development Grant Program is not eligible for a grant this year. Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants must file an application by July 1 with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

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Market garden grant available again (cont'd)

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Grant Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

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Contact: Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Maintain your dugout this spring

Water quality problems in dugouts start in the spring. Rapid runoff from snowmelt that erodes soil from unprotected land and dugout banks makes the water turbid. Runoff from livestock areas contain bacteria and manure that can cause taste, odor and disease problems. The warmer water temperature enhances algae and water weed growth.

Archie Archampong, a water engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says that even though you may not notice these problems it is important to start the necessary control measures in early spring.

Eroded clay and fine organic matter which stay suspended in dugout water for long periods of time, make the water turbid and unsuitable for drinking and other farm uses. Mr. Archampong says that the problem can be corrected by applying 10 pounds alum (aluminum suphate) for every 100,000 gallons of dugout water. Spread the alum evenly on the water surface and agitate the water to encourage mixing. The water will become clear in a few days.

Repair eroded banks and seed waterways to grass. Remove shrubs, trees and debris within 100 feet of the dugout banks.

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Maintain your dugout this spring (cont'd)

All domestic water should be chlorinated to avoid the hazards of disease-causing bacteria. The factsheet, Treatment of Dugout Water, Agdex FS716 (D33) provides useful information on this subject.

Divert runoff from pastures and other livestock housing away from the dugout.

Control algae and water weed growth at the early stage. Watch out for blue-green algae. Blooms of this algae produce poisons that can harm or kill valuable livestock.

To control algae, apply one pound of bluestone (copper suphate) per 100,000 gallons of dugout water. The bluestone can be applied as a dilute spray or placed in a cloth sack and dragged over the dugout surface until dissolved. Repeat the application in mid-summer and fall.

Control water weeds by applying Diquate (Reglon A) as a dilute spray when the weeds are in an active stage of growth, usually May to June. Mr. Archampong recommends that two to three gallons per acre of water surface be applied. Mix one part Diquate to four parts clean water. Pour or spray directly from a boat or the banks of the dugout.

For further information obtain the publication, Dugout Maintenance, Agdex FS716 (B31). It's available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Maintain your dugout this spring (cont'd)

For further information on dugout maintenance or other questions related to individual water development and treatment systems contact your regional engineering technologist, district agriculturist or district home economist.

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Contact: Archie Archampong
427-2181

May 5, 1986

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Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan - apply until September 30

The Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan is in effect for two crop years from August 1, 1984 to July 31, 1986, inclusive. "For anyone who hasn't applied, you are eligible up until September 30, 1986 to apply on all fertilizer used during the program period," says Bruce Jeffery, program administrator.

Under the plan, eligible applicants receive a grant calculated on the basis of $50 per tonne of actual nitrogen and $24 per tonne of actual phosphate used during the effective period on land farmed in Alberta. For example the grant would be $41 per tonne for 82-0-0, or $19.25 per tonne for 11-51-0.

The applicant must farm land within Alberta that is owned, leased or rented for the purpose of crop or forage production. Individuals, corporations, partnerships and other organizations actively engaged in farming are eligible. Only fertilizer used on farmland in Alberta is eligible. An applicant can only claim on the same fertilizer once. However, an applicant can make more than one application.

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Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan - apply until September 30 (cont'd)

The minimum grant paid on any one application is $25. For purpose of the program, maximum levels of nitrogen and phosphate have been established in pounds per acre for each crop year. For dry land the rates are 70 pounds actual nitrogen and 40 pounds actual phosphate for southern Alberta, special areas, Acadia Valley, Starland and Paintearth municipalities. For the rest of Alberta the rates are 100 pounds actual nitrogen and 50 pounds actual phosphate. For irrigation and all vegetable crops the maximum rates are 200 pounds actual nitrogen and 100 pounds actual phosphate.

"When making an application be sure to list the acreage of all crops and forage that have been or will be fertilized in the crop year," says Mr. Jefferey.

All applications must be accompanied by transaction documents showing the tonnage and grade of fertilizer purchased and that the fertilizer has been delivered and paid for. The fertilizer must be delivered within the effective period of the program and paid for at the time of application. September 30, 1986 is the deadline to apply.

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Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan - apply until September 30 (cont'd)

Application forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. Acceptable transaction documents include original invoices, dealer summary statements, or form B's that are stamped and signed by the dealer. Be sure and take your documents with you to the district office. Original invoices will be photocopied there and forwarded with your application to head office. Your original invoices will be stamped and returned to you.

To date 32,269 applications from 28,748 farmers have been received. Total payment to March 31, 1986 is just over $21 million, averaging $750 per farm. Farmers have applied on over 90 per cent of the fertilizer used in the 1984-85 crop year.

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Contact: Bruce Jeffery
422-5672

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May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Swine Improvement Program announces new genetic evaluation system

The Alberta Swine Improvement Program (formerly ROP program), as part of the joint federal-provincial Canadian Swine Improvement Program, has announced the publication of Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's). According to Art Lange with Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, this is the first major advancement in the program since the introduction of ultrasonics in 1972. "It will be a giant step forward in the attempt to identify superior breeding stock," he says.

EBV's are estimates of the genetic value of a breeding animal (sire or dam) for particular traits (i.e., backfat and growth rate). They are superior to previous methods because they are valid for across herd comparison. They incorporate information from relatives as well as the pigs own record. EBV's are obtained by the statistical technique called "best linear unbiased prediction" (BLUP) method which takes into account the heritability of the trait, the amount of information available (e.g., number of progeny, litters, herds), genetic competition within the herds and genetic trends in the breed. Across herd comparisons of EBV's are valid because the management effect of the herd of origin has been corrected for. They are being published separately for each region of Canada and appear as follows:

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	FAT (mm)	AGE (days)
Sire or Dam XYZ	-0.5	-2.0

This means that this particular sire's or dam's progeny can be expected to show a 0.5 mm genetic reduction in backfat and a two day genetic reduction compared to all other sires or dams on the program in western Canada. Zero is the average for the region; the greater the negative number, the greater the likelihood the progeny will show improvement in that trait.

Sire EBV's, where available, are incorporated in the bi-monthly Home Test Report which is available at all Alberta Agriculture offices or by direct mail. Dam EBV's and those from other regions are available from breeders on the program or the pork industry branch.

"Within a year, it is expected swine technicians will be equipped with microcomputers and the present indexing system will be totally replaced by EBV's," says Mr. Lange. "Canada will then have the most advanced national genetic evaluation system in the world." Consequently, swine producers who are serious about buying genetically superior breeding stock, would be well advised to acquaint themselves with this new genetic evaluation system now. For more information, contact your regional swine specialist or technician, or the pork industry branch at #204, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or phone 427-5319.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

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May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Rural lenders study agriculture

June 8 to 13, 1986 is the date for the seventh annual Agricultural Workshop for Lenders to be held at Olds College. Over 500 bank managers and loans officers have attended the workshop with 70 lenders expected to register this year, says Doug Barlund, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

The course is designed to familiarize agricultural lenders with current agricultural production, marketing and profit maximizing techniques used in Alberta's major agricultural enterprises. In addition to agriculture classes, participants are given several on-farm tours in the Olds area to obtain a first-hand look at farm operations.

This five-day workshop also allows lenders to become more familiar with the vast array of services offered by Alberta Agriculture and provides the opportunity to discuss their concerns with some of the agricultural specialists in the province. Participants also gain a great deal from sharing experiences and ideas with other lenders. A 500-page agricultural reference manual forms part of their take-home resource material.

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Rural lenders study agriculture (cont'd)

This workshop is coordinated by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in conjunction with agrologists from most major banks, Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) and the continuing education department of Olds College. It provides an excellent opportunity to foster an improved relationship between lenders and farm borrowers.

Further information on the Agricultural Workshop for Lenders and the reference manual is available from Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Doug Barlund
556-4245

May 5, 1986

For immediate release

Agricultural and community services branch head appointed

Reg Kontz has been appointed branch head of agricultural and community services for Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton. Irene M. Leavitt, director of the rural services division, said the appointment was effective April 14, 1986.

Mr. Kontz will be responsible for the administration of programs, staff and budget in the areas of agricultural service boards, agricultural societies and agricultural development committees. These organizations contribute significantly to enhance the production and the quality of life in the agricultural community.

Prior to his appointment as branch head of agricultural and community services, Mr. Kontz was head of the community services section responsible for fairs, exhibitions and agricultural societies.

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Contact: Reg Kontz
427-2171

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JUN - 3 1986

May 12, 1986

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This Week

Trade director for People's Republic of China/Hong Kong appointed....1

DHI computer program introduced.....2

Greenhouse growers get a jump on spring.....4

The cost of erosion.....6

Cutworms in winter wheat.....8

Custom rates research assistant appointed.....10

Appointed acting district home economist.....11

Correections.....12

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May 12, 1986

For immediate release

Trade director for People's Republic of China/Hong Kong appointed

Jackson Gardner, international trade director (Pacific/Asia) has announced the appointment of David W.H. Wong as trade director for the People's Republic of China/Hong Kong. The appointment with Alberta Agriculture's market development division was effective April 28, 1986.

In his new position, Mr. Wong will search out, evaluate, document and follow-up trade opportunities to supply Alberta agricultural commodities, processed products and technological services to the People's Republic of China/Hong Kong market.

The People's Republic of China/Hong Kong region was previously handled by William D. Anderson, who will now be responsible exclusively for countries in the Southeast Asia region.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Wong was the superintendent for economic development at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and has worked with the Alberta Heritage Fund-Farm Interest Shielding Program. Most recently, he was the general manager of Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation in Calgary. Mr. Wong is a B. Comm. and M.B.A. graduate of the University of Calgary.

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Contact: David W.H. Wong
427-4241

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May 12, 1986

For immediate release

DHI computer program introduced

The new national Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) computerized Milk Recording Program is being implemented in Alberta this month.

The program will provide several new options to assist dairymen in the management of their herds.

The new system was announced by C.H. McNaughton, director of Alberta Agriculture's dairy division at Wetaskiwin and Lethbridge area farmer Peter Schuld, chairman of Alberta Dairy Herd Improvement Services (ADHIS).

The computer program, which represents over two years of work, was developed through a joint venture involving Alberta Agriculture and the B.C., Manitoba and Ontario governments as well as Agriculture Canada.

The new program replaces the original system developed in the early 1970's which was no longer able to meet the needs of producers.

Along with offering basic milk recording information the program has several optional packages such as somatic cell counting, management memos and heifer management.

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DHI computer program introduced (cont'd)

"Milk recording is the most valuable management tool available to dairy producers and is fundamental to the decision making process in dairy production," says McNaughton in making the announcement.

More than 50 per cent of the milk producers are enrolled in the milk recording program.

Meetings to acquaint producers with the new program will be held throughout the province between mid and late May. Fact sheets explaining the program and options have been developed to assist in understanding the reports.

Producers in Alberta will be kept informed on new developments through the dairy producers newsletter and ADHIS field staff.

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Contact: Brian Rhiness
or
Ed Bristow
352-1223

Mike Slomp
453-5942

May 12, 1986

For immediate release

Greenhouse growers get a jump on spring

For Alberta's 250 commercial greenhouse growers spring fever arrives early. While many of us are still shovelling snow, they are busy gearing up for another hectic season of bedding plant sales.

With a value of about $31 million, the greenhouse industry creates about 2000 jobs in the province. In total, 140 acres of Alberta land are devoted to these operations. Combined with market garden revenue, the industry is worth over $36 million.

The industry is a growing one. Last year, a seven per cent growth was registered in Alberta. And, many growers believe the industry could become even more viable with the help of energy conservation incentives.

Not unlike the dairy business, commercial greenhouse growers must put in long, hard hours, seven days a week. In fact, during time period February 1 to June 30, greenhouse growers work more hours than most people work all year. Timing is critical -- in mid-May, growers begin growing chrysanthemums, in mid-July, poinsettias.

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Greenhouse growers get a jump on spring (cont'd)

For greenhouse growers selling bedding plants directly to the consumer, things aren't as tough economically as they are for the rest of the agricultural industry. It's estimated that the average person spends at least $100 on bedding plants and chemicals each year.

There are several reasons why bedding plants sales are thought to have remained high. As more people stay at home because of economy, they are more willing to spend their time and money to fix up their yards. Also, over the years, interest in horticulture in general and the popularity of using plants to beautify a home has increased.

In a recent Alberta Greenhouse Growers tour of bedding plant operations in the Edmonton area, geraniums and other springtime favorites appear to be in excellent condition.

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Contact: Mirza Mohyuddin
973-3351

May 12, 1986

For immediate release

The cost of erosion

It could cost an Alberta farmer as much as $85,000 a hectare to replace soil nutrients lost through wind erosion.

It's an impractical figure from any standpoint, says Dr. J.F. Dormaar, a soil chemist with the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Lethbridge, but it does underscore the cost involved in poor land management.

In experiments done in southern Alberta by Dormaar and his staff it was found that the cost of replacing nutrients in the soil, depending on the quality of soil to begin with, could range from $7,000 to $85,000 a hectare.

On land that has been cultivated at the research station for 74 years the cost of replacing the nutrient from fine soil particles in the upper five centimetres of soil would be about $15,000 a hectare.

And in a separate experiment on land selected to represent brown, dark brown and black soils brought under cultivation in recent years the cost of replacing nutrients ranged from $7,000 a hectare in poorer soils to $85,000 a hectare in better soils.

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The cost of erosion (cont'd)

The cost is based on the amount of bagged fertilizer it would take to replace nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium levels in the soil and the amount of straw that would need to be plowed back into the earth to rebuild the organic matter.

"If someone really had to get out there and replace the nutrients lost through wind erosion, these are the costs that we have estimated," says Dormaar. "It would never be practical, but it does show what wind erosion is costing."

Rebuilding soil organic matter and nutrient levels in eroded, cultivated soils under dryland management is a very slow process, he says. Although many years of cultivation have reduced the value of some soil, Dormaar says the best approach is to use land management practices that prevent wind erosion in the first place.

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Contact: Dr. J.F. Dormaar
327-4561

May 12, 1986

For immediate release

Cutworms in winter wheat

Cutworm infestations found recently in winter wheat crops in southern Alberta indicate that farmers may again be faced with a serious cutworm problem this year.

Michael Dolinski, of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch, says that so far it appears that winter wheat on summerfallow has been more affected than on stubble. The most recent damage on large winter wheat plants consists of clipping the tillers off the plants. How much thinning plants can withstand is presently unknown.

Mr. Dolinski advises producers to watch for damage to winter wheat on south-facing hill tops where signs of cutworm infestation will appear first. "Right now, many larvae are small because of the cool weather and it is hard to assess numbers per square metre," he says. "However, plants should be checked daily and if a significant amount of plants are being killed producers should consider spraying."

(Cont'd)

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Cutworms in winter wheat (cont'd)

One of three insecticides -- Ambush, Decis or Lorsban -- should be used. Producers should wait until the temperature reaches 10°C when the soil warms up and larvae begin to feed before spraying. The insecticide should be applied towards the evening; as it gets warmer and dryer it becomes more critical that spraying be done at this time. Three or four days after application, fields should be checked for signs of continued damage.

Since the cutworm population is still unknown, spring wheat crops should also be watched as they germinate. If a problem becomes apparent, producers should follow the same insecticide application procedure.

Mr. Dolinski says that the good supply of moisture received recently helps winter wheat crops compensate and outgrow damage, thereby reducing the impact of the cutworm problem that Alberta producers faced last year.

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Contact: Michael Dolinski
427-5339

May 12, 1986

For immediate release

Custom rates research assistant appointed

Eugene Harrison has been appointed custom rates research assistant with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. The May 5 appointment was announced by J. Wilson Loree, branch head.

Mr. Harrison was raised on a mixed farm near Hanna, Alberta. He graduated from Olds College in 1986 with a diploma in agronomy.

Mr. Harrison will be travelling throughout the province this summer updating a contact list of custom rates of custom operators in Alberta. With the information that will be compiled on the operators' costs and the location of custom operators, farmers will be able to know the going rate for the operations in their area.

Mr. Harrison carried out a field crop research project in southern Alberta during the summer of 1985. His position this season will involve extensive travel and contact with Alberta producers.

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Contact: Eugene Harrison
556-4276

May 12, 1986

For immediate release

Appointed acting district home economist

Christine Petersen, a graduate of the University of Alberta has been appointed acting Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Claresholm filling in for Jan Williams who is away on maternity leave.

In making the announcement, Louise Brodersen, regional home economist for the south region noted that Petersen's appointment will run from May 1 to October 31, 1986.

A native of Tilley, Alberta, a farm community about 20 kilometres east of Brooks, Petersen graduated in April from the U of A with a bachelor of science degree in home economics, majoring in family studies.

She served as summer assistant district home economist in Red Deer in 1984 and served her practicum placement with the district home economist in Stony Plain.

"I will be conducting business as usual while Jan is away," says Petersen. "I am excited to learn about the agriculture and people in the Municipal District of Willow Creek."

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Contact: Christine Petersen
625-3301

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Corrections

In Agri-News April 28, 1986 the telephone number in the article Hardy plants for Alberta should be 973-3351.

In Agri-News May 5,1986, the article entitled, Beware of buying untested swine breeding stock, should have read: "For example, if the new boar settles only 1.5 sows per week for a year..."

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN - 2 1986

May 19, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Check nitrate content of farm water supply.....1

Seed market can be misleading.....4

Alberta Agriculture part of Expo.....6

A new insecticide tape for cattle.....8

Protective clothing important.....10

Caring for trees and shrubs.....13

Better late than never to review tax return.....16

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May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Check nitrate content of farm water supply

Rural homeowners are advised to check nitrate levels in the domestic water supply to avoid a natural health hazard which can be fatal for both humans and livestock.

Experts with Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch in Edmonton say even if someone has been using a water supply on a homestead for 30 years it is worth having a water sample tested yearly to detect nitrate contamination.

Archie Archampong, a water engineer with the department in Edmonton, says the test is particularly important for new people moving onto rural properties with well or dugout water sources.

Nitrates get into drinking water from plants that fix nitrogen from the air (such as legumes) and from decaying dead plants and animals. Other sources include residue from nitrate and ammonia fertilizers, animal manure, and seepage from septic tanks.

Once a high level of nitrate contamination is detected it must be removed.

(Cont'd)

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Check the intrate content of farm water supply (cont'd)

Archampong says the contamination can present serious health hazards particularly to human babies and infant livestock, such as piglets and chicks. The problem can lead to poisoning and possible death. Infant and adult horses, sheep and cattle can also suffer acute nitrate poisioning and eventual death.

"By itself, nitrate is not harmful, " says Archampong. "However, when it is converted into the nitrate form by naturally occuring bacteria in the gut system the effect is poisonous. The nitrate combines with the red blood cells to make them inefficient in carrying life supporting oxygen to the body parts.

"Affected babies literally suffocate from lack of oxygen and may die if not treated. This condition is called methemoglobinemia, a disease characterized by a bluish coloration of the skin."

Babies lose the nitrate converting bacteria at age six months and develop immunity to nitrate poisoning. Older children and adults can drink and excrete nitrates without developing problems, says Archampong.

Common symptoms of nitrate poisoning in livestock include frequent urination, a sluggish staggering gait, rapid heartbeat, labored breathing and collapse. Archampong says to contact a veterinarian at first sign of the symptoms.

(Cont'd)

Check nitrate content of farm water supply (cont'd)

While the water engineer notes the problems can be serious he says having water samples tested yearly by the local health unit will determine if nitrates are a problem.

Nitrates in drinking water can be removed by reverse osmosis and water distillation.

Alberta Agriculture publication Reverse Osmosis, Agdex 716 (D36), provides information on one water treatment method.

Copies of the publication can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office 7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Along with the publication, advice on the nitrate problem can be obtained from district agriculturists, district home economists, or the following reigonal engineering technologists:

Rich Smith, Airdrie, 948-5101; Orin Kenzie, Lethbridge, 381-5112; Ken Williamson, Red Deer, 340-5324; Larry Wasylik, Vermilion, 853-8109; Bob Buchanan, Barrhead, 674-8253; Bill Cornwell, Fairview, 835-2291.

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May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Seed market can be misleading

Farmers hoping to cash in on a buoyant forage seed market had best be watchful of how quickly that market can change says a spokesman for the Alberta Forage Seed Council.

Bob Luco of Lethbridge, chairman of the council says although prices look good now an over supply can force the price down quickly.

Luco says farmers may find they will be better off to cut a marginal seed crop for hay or plow it under for green manure rather than accept a rock bottom price.

Major concern for the specialized seed growers and for the forage seed industry as a whole, is growing from the present spectacular interest in forage seed production, says Luco.

Generated by the U.S. Farm Bill passed in 1985 and by the dramatic downward trend in the price of cereals and oilseeds, retail sales of forage seed to Alberta farmers this spring have been brisk and will result in substantial increases of acreages seeded down to crops that will come into production in 1987.

Luco says the forage crop promoters are pleased with the expansion and renewed interest in forage crops which not only benefit soil conservation and soil nutrients but provide a quality food supply to the province's cattle industry.

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(Cont'd)

Seed market can be misleading (cont'd)

As well forage production itself can be more profitable than seed production.

"Present producer prices of forage seed look attractive," says Luco. "Will they be the same in 1987? During the last year, the impact of the U.S. Farm Bill on seed movements from Canada to the U.S. has been smaller than expected. The higher seed prices experienced in 1985/86 were more due to poor seed yields than to increased demand.

"A large seed crop from increased seed production acreages in 1987 could spell another seed glut and market over supply," he says.

Also restrictions imposed by the new Seeds Act regulations, particularly regarding rape seed and Brassica seed content in the Canada Seed Grades of some forage species, could also create serious problems for the forage seed industry and should be given top consideration by the grower before deciding to keep a forage stand for seed purposes, says Luco.

"The Alberta Forage Seed Council is most anxious to insure that producers are fully aware of the situation," says Luco. "Any field or stand of forage which, because of weed or other crop infestation is not suitable to produce a good yield of high quality seed, should definitely be cut for hay or silage or plowed under as green manure."

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Contact: Bob Luco
329-1715

May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture part of Expo

The efforts of Alberta Agriculture will be playing a part in British Columbia during the week of May 19 as Expo '86 pays tribute to Alberta.

While May 19 marks Alberta Day at Expo the celebration actually started before that and involved more communities than just Vancouver says an Alberta Agriculture marketing spokesman.

Wilf Walker, trade director for West Coast Canada/U.S. says he has been providing advice to the provincial Expo steering committee for the past three years in prepartion for the world exposition which opened earlier this month.

Along with involvement at Expo, Alberta Agriculture supplied display material for the province's first major food promotion in British Columbia involving 92 Canada Safeway stores across the province.

Culminating with Alberta Day at Expo, featured during the week long promotion were Alberta beef and pork as well as bottled water, cookies, crumpets, pasta, honey, canola oil, canned milk, cheese, pancake mix, potato chips, frozen vegetables, ice cream bars, tart shells and perogies.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta Agriculture part of Expo (cont'd)

Extensive use of demonstrators, posters of Alberta scenes, Alberta roses, "Enjoy Alberta" recipe brochures, balloons and shelf talkers were all part of the in-store display material supplied by the department.

Two Safeway customers at each store were to win a dinner at the formal dining room at the Alberta Pavilion Restaurant at Expo as well as gate passes to the exposition.

Along with the grocery store promotion Alberta Agriculture is also proud of the fare available at the Alberta Pavilion's three restaurants.

"We encourage everyone, especially Albertans to search out the pavilion and the restaurants," says Walker. "These restaurants are what help make this province's entry one of the top 10 attractions at Expo '86."

From the formal dining room on the second floor to the streamlined ground level and the fast food service on the patio in front of the pavilion, George and Andre Schwarz are establishing the Alberta Pavilion as the place to eat, says Walker.

The Swiss brothers, already renowned for fine food at the Post Hotel at Lake Louise and Beaujolais and Georgeo's at Banff, are serving Alberta products at all three outlets.

The menu will include Alberta beef, pork, lamb, buffalo, freshwater fish, beer, wine, cheese, wild mushrooms and other products which act as subtle advertisers for Alberta producers and processors. Taber corn will also be featured in season.

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Contact: Wilf Walker
427-4241

May 19, 1986

For immediate release

A new insecticide tape for cattle

Farmers looking for a portable insecticide to keep horn flies away from cattle can try a new type of treated tape which attaches to a regular livestock ear tag.

Dr. Ali Khan, Alberta Agriculture's livestock pest control specialist in Edmonton says the tape, which contains insecticide, sold under the brand name of Ectiban Tape, resembles a large band-aid with broad adhesive flaps for attaching to the regular I.D. ear tags.

The concept of the tape is similar to other products on the market such as ear tags already treated with insecticide. With the use of this tape, says Dr. Khan, the cattleman can convert the existing I.D. tag into an insecticide-charged ear tag.

Dr. Kahn says the tape appears to be comparable to other similar types of insecticides on the market. Horn fly control research conducted in Canada has shown up to 98 per cent reduction in the number of flys on cattle treated with the tape, says Khan.

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Contact: Dr. Ali Khan
427-9051

May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Land values down in first quarter

The value of agricultural land took a drop of about five per cent during the first three months of the year according to an Alberta Agriculture resource economics expert.

Julie Egglestone in reporting on the first quarter activity of agricultural land sales and transfers says although the volume of transactions increased by 38.6 per cent the average value per acre dropped by 5.2 per cent over the last three months of 1985.

Egglestone says the increase in farm real estate activity early in the year is a common trend.

A comparison between the first quarters of 1985 and 1986 shows an overall increase of 3.7 per cent this year in the volume of transfers.

The difference comes in the value of land between now and 1985.

Egglestone says in the first quarter of 1986 the average land value was $378.79 per acre, compared to the fourth quarter of 1985 with the average value at $399.44 per acre.

The average value per acre for agricultural land in the first quarter of 1985 was $395.25 which represents a 4.2 per cent decrease over the first quarter of 1986.

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Contact: Julie Egglestone
427-4026

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May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Protective clothing important

Whether waging a battle against insects or weeds farmers are warned to make sure they aren't among the casualties when handling hazardous chemicals.

An Alberta Agriculture specialist says it is important for anyone handling agricultural chemicals to make sure they are wearing protective clothing and proper safety equipment when using herbicides, insecticides or fungicides.

Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing textiles specialist in Edmonton says along with wearing the proper protection it is also important to keep the clothing clean after each use.

Farmers are urged to check the product label to determine the degree of toxicity of the chemical, whether highly, moderately or slightly toxic and then plan appropriate protection.

Clothing acts as a barrier to prevent skin absorption of pesticides, says Eggertson. And several layers of clothing provide better protection.

Basic protective clothing includes long-sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, neoprene or unlined rubber gloves, neoprene overboots or long rubber boots and a wide-brimmed hard hat.

(Cont'd)

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Protective clothing important (cont'd)

A neoprene apron is recommended when handling any pesticide concentrates. Along with the hard hat, head gear should include goggles or face shields to protect eyes and face against pesticide vapors, dust and splashes.

A respirator is vital when handling very dangerous pesticides to prevent inhalation of dusts, powders and sprays. Keep the respirator clean and replace the cartridge or entire respirator, if disposable, at the first sign of chemical odor.

Once the protective gear has done its job it is important, says Eggertson to get it clean. The skin can absorb chemicals from inadequately laundered garments.

In handling soiled clothing wear rubber gloves. Get rid of any granules or dust caught in the pockets or cuffs. Discard any garment saturated with full strength chemical. Temporarily store contaminated clothing in a garbage bag and wash protective clothing after it's used each day.

In the actual wash keep pesticide-soiled clothing separate from regular laundry, avoid overcrowding in the machine, pre-treat clothes with a laundry stain removal product intended for oily stains and pre-rinse clothing on a pre-soak cycle.

Eggertson says use hot water, full water level, normal cycle, heavy duty detergent and repeat the wash two or three times. Line dry the clothing.

(Cont'd)

Protective clothing important (cont'd)

After the wash is complete run the empty machine through a full cycle with hot water and detergent to clean it out.

Also wash the hard hat, goggles and respirator in hot soapy water daily.

A publication, Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use, (Homedex 1353-90) is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

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May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Caring for trees and shrubs

Preparing a master plan of how to develop the flora around the homestead will help save time, money and disappointment says experts with Alberta Agriculture.

Peter Funk, district agriculturist in Red Deer, says developing a yard plan before ordering from seed catalogues or buying from a nursery will allow the homeowner to determine how the yard will look and how much time and money that look will cost. The plan also discourages impulse buying.

Early spring and late fall are the preferred times to transplant trees and shrubs. Transplanting should take place in spring before buds break or in fall just after the leaves have dropped. At those times plants are dormant and less likely to be hurt by being moved.

Betty Vladicka, Alberta Agriculture horticulture specialist notes that transplanting existing yard plants should only be done in spring or fall while planting new trees and shrubs bought from a garden centre or nursery can be done anytime during the season. Vladicka says this applies to any tree or shrub with wrapped roots or plants that are container-grown.

(Cont'd)

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Caring for trees and shrubs (cont'd)

When planting trees and shrubs that have already leafed out make sure they are balled and burlapped or come in a container. It also helps if the leaves have been coated with an antidesiccant spray (a waxy material which helps reduce moisture loss from leaves).

Trees and shrubs shipped bare root without earth surrounding the root system, should be soaked 24 hours before planting. Mound the earth at the bottom of the planting hole and set the roots over the mound and down around into the hole. It is important the bare root plants be well watered at planting time and throughout the first season.

In moving trees and shrubs from one spot to another in the yard it isn't necessary to ball them, but take as much soil with the roots as possible. Prune to remove any growth broken or damaged during the move.

One of the cardinal rules of all planting is to get the plant into the ground quickly. The longer the delay the harder it is for it to start growing and survive the shock of planting. In either planting or transplanting trees and shrubs no fertilizer is needed the first year, but should be applied at the beginning of the next growing season.

If stock should arrive from a nursery several days before it can be planted, it must be heeled in. Dig a trench in the shade and lay in the roots so the plant is resting at a 45 degree angle. Cover the roots with soil and keep damp.

(Cont'd)

Caring for trees and shrubs (cont'd)

Once the plants are in a permanent location it is important to maintain consistent moisture throughout the growing season. Evergreens are a special case as they arrive with a full canopy of leaves that must be supported with whatever root mass they have.

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Contact: Peter Funk
340-5364

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

May 19, 1986

For immediate release

Better late than never to review tax return

Farmers fearing they may have missed the boat after filing their 1985 income tax return have 90 days after receiving the final assessment to make corrections or additions to the tax forms say Alberta Agriculture farm management specialists.

Although the frantic rush to meet the April 30 deadline is passed some farmers have learned portions of the tax return may have been filed incorrectly or some additional options could have been claimed.

Alberta Agriculture Farm Business Management branch economists in Olds say it is a worthwhile exercise to review tax forms after deadline, to see if any changes are needed.

"It is not uncommon to file incorrectly or miss certain strategies that could have drastically reduced your tax liability," says economist Merle Good. "In your review, if an error or omission becomes apparent, you have only 90 days to contact Revenue Canada, after receiving your notice of assessment, to rectify the situation."

Unfortunately, several farmers at a recent tax course, sponsored by the branch, were not at ease, as they were unaware of certain elected options available when filing returns.

(Cont'd)

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At this course, farmers filing receipts from oil and gas well surface leases, pipelines, and/or seismic operations did not know the $500,000 capital gains exemption could have been applied to the capital portion of their settlement.

Specifically, payments received by an owner of farmland for leases of surface rights, pipelines, and seismic operations often require a lump sum to be paid in the first year, says Good. Under an oil and gas well, such a sum includes payments for such things as damages to the land, inconvenience, severance, and the first year's rent.

The lump sum received in the first year, less the subsequent annual payment is usually considered "damages" and is treated as a capital receipt while the rental payment is considered farm income and reported on the income and expense form contained in the Farmers' Guide.

In respect to the "damages", the payments historically could either be treated as a capital gain or the proceeds applied against the adjusted cost base (ACB) of the land affected, Good explained. With the passing of Bill C-84, the $500,000 capital gains exemption became available to farmers as of January 1, 1985 and now presents a third option. If a farmer therefore, had received compensation from oil and gas exploration on his farm during 1985, the capital portion of compensation would have been eligible to have the $500,000 capital gains exemption apply to the proceeds. The net effect of course, would be a NIL tax liability on this source of income.

(Cont'd)

Better late than never to review tax return (cont'd)

To illustrate the proper method in reporting such proceeds, the following example is provided:

E X A M P L E

	Method I Report as Capital Gain	Method II Reduce ACB of Quarter	Method III Apply $500,000 Exemption
Initial Payment	10,000	10,000	10,000
Subsequent Payments (Rent)	2,500	2,500	2,500
Capital Portion (Damages)	7,500	7,500	7,500
Apply 500,000 Exemption:	0	0	7,500
Carry Forward of Exemption	500,000	500,000	492,500
Taxable Income:			
Taxable Capital Gains	3,700	0	0
Rent	2,500	2,500	2,500
	6,250	2,500	2,500
ACB of Quarter	48,000	40,500	48,000

(Cont'd)

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Better late than never to review tax return (cont'd)

ANALYSIS:

METHOD ONE - The Capital receipt is reported as a capital gain with 50 per cent of the gain $3,750 ($7,500 divided by 2) added to income. This figure, ($3,750) combined with the rent of $2,500 results in taxable income of $6,250.

METHOD TWO - The capital receipt is subtracted from the ACB of the Quarter, resulting in a reduction to $40,500, (48,000 - 7,500). When the quarter is eventually sold, the capital gain will be calculated from the new ACB figure of $40,500.

The capital gain is therefore not forgiven but postponed until a disposition occurs. The taxable income consists therefore of only $2,500 received as the rent.

METHOD THREE - The capital receipt is cancelled by applying $7,500 of the $500,000 capital gains exemption to the proceeds. The ACB of the quarter is unaffected and remains at $48,000 with the rent of $2,500 being the only taxable income.

(Cont'd)

Better late than never to review tax return (cont'd)

As can be seen from the example, either Method 2 or 3 result in no immediate tax liability on the capital portion of the proceeds received.

However, Method 2 is only available if the compensation does not exceed 20 per cent of the adjusted cost base value. If the compensation exceeds the 20 per cent allowance, the entire amount must be reported as a capital gain. In method 2 therefore, if the capital portion of the damages exceeded $9,600 - ($48,000 x 20% = $9,600), the farmer would have been required to use either Method 1 or Method 3.

In counselling farmers, the preferred method in many cases is Method 3 as utilizing the $500,000 exemption as quickly as possible is perhaps prudent tax planning as some taxplanners question whether this exemption is here to stay.

"What do I do now if I had reported my income from an oil and gas activity as follows:

(A) reported the capital portion as a capital gain

(B) applied the capital gain against the ACB of the land

(C) reported the entire payment as farm income, but would like to now use the $500,000 capital gain exemption."

(Cont'd)

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Better late than never to review tax return (cont'd)

Revenue Canada, says a letter (not an amended return) be sent to the Winnipeg Taxation Centre, explaining that under situation (A) (reported the capital portion as a capital gain), the farmer would simply like to apply the capital gain exemption against the capital gain reported in his return.

Under situation (B) (applied the capital gain against the ACB of the land) the farmer will be able to apply the exemption and have the adjusted cost base of the quarter reinstated to its original value.

Under situation (C) (reported the entire payment as farm income), request that the income and expense form be changed as the capital portion of the payment should be subtracted from income and included in Schedule 2 as disposition of capital property. Following this, as in case A and B, the $500,000 capital gain exemption can be applied to the capital proceeds.

Good suggests the following letter as an example to be sent to Revenue Canada making the request:

(Cont'd)

Better late than never to review tax return (cont'd)

May 8, 1986

To Whom It May Concern:

When I filed my return, I failed to claim the Capital Gains exemption in respect to capital gain reported. I hereby request that my 1985 tax return be revised to allow for the exemption. I have enclosed a copy of form T657 "Calculation of Capital Gains Exemption for 1985" in respect of the capital gains exemption.

If a farmer has already received his assessment notice from the tax department, the request must be mailed to Winnipeg within 90 days of receiving the assessment notice. In that letter, request the return be re-assessed rather than revised.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN 10 1986

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Farmers urged to support Census Day.....1

A look at "opportunities" in the food industry.....3

Shorthorn calf to benefit 4-H Foundation.....6

Lamb sales may be down.....8

Brand book being updated.....11

Options to credit cards.....13

July draft horse show planned.....18

Handle treated seed with care.....20

Disposable clothing provides an option.....22

Receives training in Innisfail.....25

Coming Agricultural Events.....26

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May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Farmers urged to support Census Day

Alberta farmers are being urged to do their part during national census day next week and give full co-operation to the federal Census of Agriculture, June 3.

The census is a project of Statistics Canada and Alberta Agriculture deputy minister Ben McEwen says the information collected during the census is of value to all producers.

"An agriculture census is conducted only once every five years and considering events in agriculture since 1981, when the last Census of Agriculture was completed, I cannot over emphasize how important it is to Alberta's agriculture industry to have a census at this time," says McEwen. "A Census of Agriculture provides consistent statistical information on farms across our province and nation."

Alberta farmers, like their counterparts across the country, will have received a blue 1986 Census of Agriculture questionnaire from a census representative and will be asked to reply to the questions.

The representative will return to the farm shortly after June 3 and pick up the completed forms. In some centres directions will be left to return the form by mail.

(Cont'd)

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Farmers urged to support Census Day (cont'd)

Information provided by each producer is combined with data from other farmers so that confidentiality is protected, yet summary results will represent useful information about the industry.

"Benefits of conducting an agriculture census are not easily recognized by producers who are required to complete the questionnaire," says McEwen. "Yet producers stand to benefit the most in having a census. Producers benefit indirectly because those of us responsible for developing agriculture programs and policies use information published from the census to make better judgements as to what to do.

"Others in our industry make company decisions which are often based on census information. Without this base of information, industry might well be out of phase with producers at which time costs could be worse, supplies not available or products produced that were not suitable to changes which occurred.

"The census has additional questions relating to our areas of concern...those of production costs and incomes," says the deputy minister. "Other questions are being added or deleted to reflect present production practices.

"Census day is June 3. The census is for you and I urge Alberta producers to be part of it," says McEwen.

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Contact: C.E. Sterling
427-4016

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Alberta
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Print Media Branch

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

A look at "opportunities" in the food industry

Delegates ranging from food scientists and dieticians to food processors and marketing experts are expected in Calgary next month for a four-day conference exploring what's new in the food industry.

Although it may sound technical, conference chairman, Dr. Dave Schroder, with Alberta Agriculture's food processing development centre in Leduc says there will be plenty of down-to-earth discussion on what opportunities are out there for food producers and processors both at home and abroad.

Topics will range from advances in biotechnology and microbiology to how food manufacturers should meet the needs of consumers concerned about calories and nutrition.

Sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, (CIFST) this 29th annual conference will be held at the Palliser Hotel/ Calgary Convention Centre from June 29 to July 2.

CIFST is a nation-wide organization of technical and professional people from industry, university and government dedicated to applying science and engineering to every aspect of production, processing, packaging, distribution, preparation, evaluation and use of food.

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A look at "opportunities" in the food industry (cont'd)

Dr. Terry Smyrl, a food scientist, with the Alberta Agriculture horticultural research center in Brooks, one of the conference organizers, says the conference will have valuable information for anyone involved with food processing and marketing after it leaves the farm gate.

Many of the conference topics cover areas of processing and market development, actively supported by divisions of Alberta Agriculture specialists.

The three main speakers at the opening plenary session, addressing the theme of "Opportunity", include Percy Gitelman, president of Universal Foods of Toronto with an overview on opportunities in the food industry. Gitelman is also president of Alberta Industrial Mustard Company in Lethbridge.

Dr. Ivan Head, president of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in Ottawa, will talk about opportunities in developing countries, while Dr. Yves Fouron, vice-president of Bio Response Inc. of Hayward, California will discuss food-related opportunities in biotechnology.

Along with the three main talks there will be separate discussions on opportunities in developing countries, research and development funding and opportunities for selling food on the international market.

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A look at "opportunities" in the food industry (cont'd)

Other sessions will discuss extending shelf life of foods such as meat, poultry and fish through biological control, development, improvement and trade of dairy products, foodborne disease update and food engineering advances.

Smyrl says there should be an interesting exchange on how the industry meets consumer demands for more diet conscious foods and nutritional values.

There will be pre-conference workshops, along with about 100 volunteered technical presentations and displays by about 35 companies exhibiting their food products and services.

Further details on the conference can be obtained from Dr. Dave Schroder, Food Processing Development Centre, Alberta Agriculture, Box 1217, Leduc, Alberta, T96 2Y7.

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Contact: Dr. Dave Schroder
986-4793
or
Dr. Terry Smyrl
362-3391

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Shorthorn calf to benefit 4-H Foundation

A purebred Shorthorn calf, being raised near Claresholm, will be sold at an auction in Calgary next month to help raise funds to benefit the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake.

Colleen Mouser with 4-H Foundation steer
and her parents Jim and Rita Mouser of Claresholm

Phone: (403) 427-2121

(Cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Shorthorn calf to benefit 4-H Foundation (cont'd)

The calf, bought by the Alberta Shorthorn Association in November for $600, will be sold at the June 2, 4-H on Parade sale at the Agriculture Pavilion at the Exhibition and Stampede Grounds in Calgary.

The animal was donated by the Shorthorn association to the 4-H Foundation of Alberta which operates the centre. The money will go towards completion of the dormitory phase of the Battle Lake centre.

Bought from longtime Shorthorn breeder, Jim Mouser, the calf is being raised on the Claresholm area farm as a companion for Colleen Mouser's own 4-H calf. Colleen, 16, is a member of the Claresholm 4-H Beef Club.

The Alberta 4-H Centre, built on the shores of Battle Lake, 50 kilometres west of Wetaskiwin, was developed to provide educational, recreational and social activities for 4-H members and leaders in an outdoor setting.

Environmental education receives special emphasis at the centre. The facility provides a main building with kitchen and meeting areas along with a dormitory which will sleep 64.

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Contact: Iris Plamondon
427-2541

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Lamb sales may be down

The number of fat lambs sold this year is expected to be down according to results of an annual survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission.

Michael Adam, livestock statistician with Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, says sheep producers responding to the survey, indicate they plan to market fewer lambs in 1986.

Comparing projected sales figures between March and December this year with the same period in 1985 the survey indicates a two percent decrease in the number of lambs to be taken to market.

The survey showed the average producer expects to market 139 fat lambs this year. The results also indicate that sales will follow traditonal trends, rising through the first and second quarters to peak levels in the third quarter and then declining in the final quarter.

The figures reflect the continuing decline in sheep and lamb numbers in the province which is part of a general trend of reduced livestock inventories.

The survey has had good support within Alberta's sheep industry since it was started in 1984.

(Cont'd)

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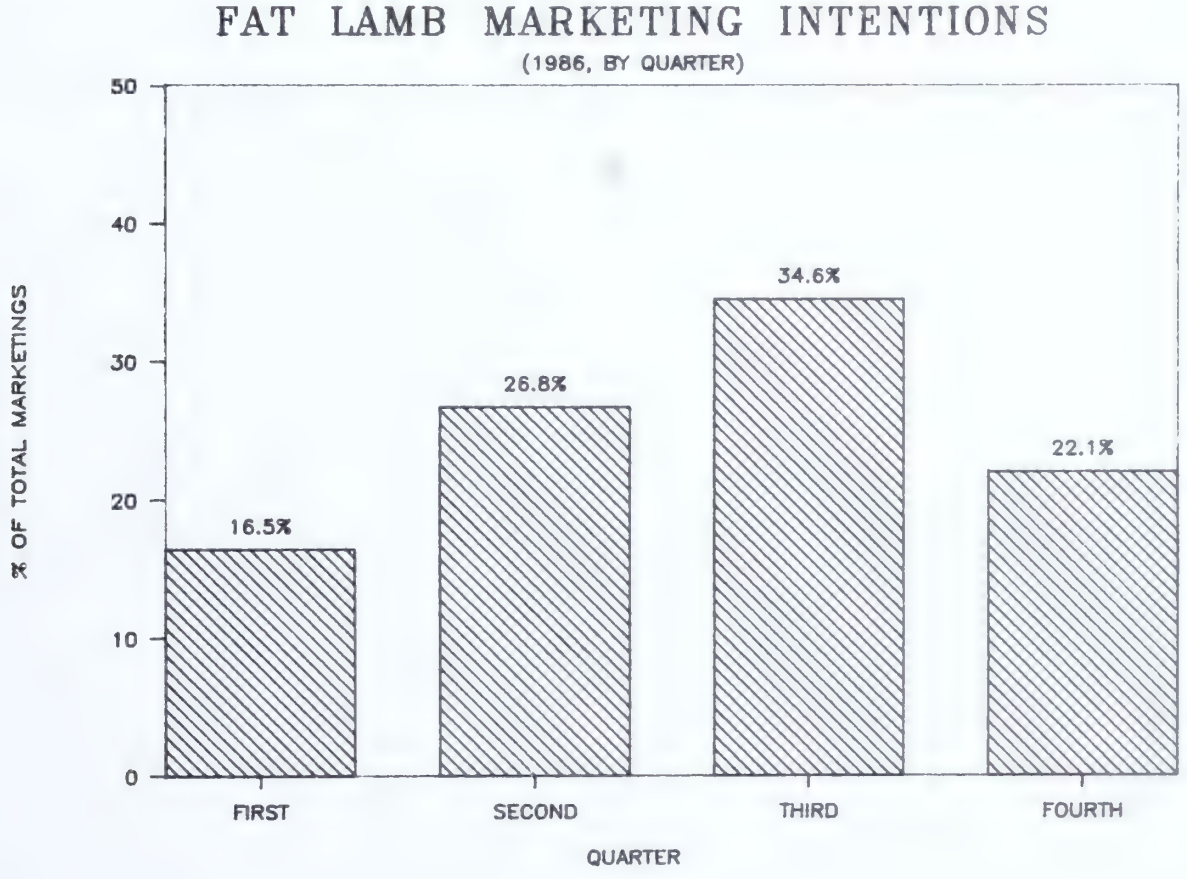
"Response rate has been consistently high, exceeding 30 per cent each year," says Adam. "With such response it has been possible to obtain reliable estimates of average flock size and projected lamb supply annually."

The following graph demonstrates what pattern sales are expected to follow.



The survey also gave information on feeder lamb sales and producer feelings toward flock expansion.

(Cont'd)

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Lamb sales may be down (cont'd)

Detailed results of the survey can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture, Statistics Branch, 7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Michael Adam
427-4011

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Brand book being updated

The 1986 edition of the Alberta Brand Book, with its more than 52,000 brands, should be back from the printer and ready for distribution in the province by early August.

The book, which is republished every four years, will contain 1,100 pages, says Betty Ettinger, provincial brand recorder with Alberta Agriculture regulatory services in Stettler.

The book will carry 52,591 brands in this edition, which represent all the registered numbers, letters and symbols used to identify ownership of cattle and horses in the province. Brand registry was first introduced in Alberta in 1878.

The brand recorder is faced with about 200 new brands to be catalogued each month along with an almost equal number of old brands that need to be dropped from the registry because they were not renewed or were no longer needed.

Along with the major overhaul every four years, a supplement, updating brand registry changes is published every two years.

The 1982 version of the brand book showed 50,051 brands. The newest edition will still carry the '71' left rib brand, the oldest in the province, which was first registered in Fort Macleod in 1880.

(Cont'd)

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Brand book being updated (cont'd)

Preparation for republishing the brand book began early this year, says Ettinger, noting the book is being compiled for the first time on computer making additions and deletions easier.

Along with the written portion of the book, two Alberta Agriculture workers have been busy since mid-April re-drawing the 52,000 brand designs.

Gail Brodersen and Annabelle Mireault both have been working on the special project and expect to have all artwork completed by late June.

The new edition of the book should be on sale by late summer.

Contact: Betty Ettinger
742-4481

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Options to credit cards

There's nothing wrong with having credit cards, but farmers like any other consumer, are advised to use them cautiously by Alberta Agriculture economists.

The experts say sometimes there are alternatives to using "plastic" which can save on interest charges.

Many farm families have found major credit cards handy when travelling or making purchases away from their local area.

But along with the privilege of having a credit card comes the "privilege" of paying high interest if these cards are not treated with caution, says Doug Barlund, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds..

"One of the major companies charges 18.6 per cent per annum plus a $12 annual user's fee. If you don't want to pay $12 per year, they'll charge you $6 per year and 10 or 15¢ per credit transaction, depending upon the bank you deal with," says Barlund. "Another company charges 21 percent per annum and no user's fees.

Some oil companies and department stores charge two per cent per month or a nominal rate of 24 per cent per annum for use of their credit cards.

(Cont'd)

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Options to credit cards (cont'd)

If the nominal annual interest rate of 24 per cent sounds high, two per cent per month, compounded monthly over one year, calculates to 26.8 per cent effective rate of interest. In other words, an unpaid credit balance carried over a year will result in a 26.8 per cent interest charge on that balance. A $5 interest charge on your monthly statement may seem insignificant, but when calculated to an annual rate of interest, it becomes costly compared to the prime bank rate of about 10.75 percent says Barlund.

Credit cards can be a handy credit tool when used effectively. If the account is paid in full by the statement due date, no interest is charged.

However if the consumer can't pay the credit account in full by this date, he'll start paying high interest charges, says Barlund.

Some department stores which have their own cards, add a credit charge to the account monthly, based on the previous month's balance. One company, for example, calculates the charge at a rate of 2.40 per cent per month or 28.8 per cent per year.

If the card holder pays off more than half of the previous balance within 25 days of the statement date, the payment wil be deducted before the credit charge is calculated. Otherwise the credit charge is calculated on the previous month's billed total and not on the present outstanding balance.

(Cont'd)

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Options to credit cards (cont'd)

Barlund says it is worth checking the store policy on paying credit balances.

"If you need quick cash, taking a cash advance on your "plastic" will cost you interest from the day you borrowed the money," says Barlund. "This applies to major credit card companies and who wants to pay over 18 per cent interest for operating credit?"

Although farmers may not make extensive use of credit cards, they are occasionally used for buying items such as repair parts and small tools. Major credit cards are also used as identification when writing cheques at retail outlets.

When making purchases on credit at hardware stores where it may be a combination of business and personal shopping, obtain a written invoice for the business purchases, says Barlund. Although the total bill may be bought on credit, you'll want a clear record of business purchases for your farm management and income tax records.

What options are there to keeping out of the "easy credit" trap?

. Many bank managers stress that if a person is considering larger purchases, whether they be for household or business purposes, a loan is the best way to finance the purchase. This is particularly true when spending a larger amount of money and need time to pay it back.

(Cont'd)

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Options to credit cards (cont'd)

. A personal line of credit, which allows a pre-arranged credit limit with the lender is a another option. A person can write cheques and repay the debt over an established repayment schedule.

This option may be a dangerous way of sliding into more debt if not used judiciously, says Barlund. But at least the borrower can haggle over the interest rate rather than accept a given 18 - 24 per cent per annum. Most lines of credit are set up with interest at prime, plus one to three per cent.

. Farmers who use credit cards for "emergency" purposes also have the option of paying off the "plastic" account with their farm operating loan account prior to the due date. In this way you have gained an extra 25 to 30 days credit, interest free and the purchase is financed with a loan based on a floating prime interest rate.

(Cont'd)

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Options to credit cards (cont'd)

"If you don't have a major credit card, don't feel as though you have to rush out and get one," says Barlund. "If credit cards are used, use them judiciously to minimize your cost of credit."

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Contact: Douglas E. Barlund
556-4245

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

July draft horse show planned

The top draft horses in the province are expected in Calgary July 2 for the annual Alberta Draft Horse Improvement program show sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

More than 60 animals will be under the eyes of the judges as each of the three main breeds, Clydesdales, Percheron and Belgians, are shown in three classes. Deadline for entry registration is June 20.

The show which is held at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede grounds during Stampede celebrations, is growing in popularity says Bob Coleman, horse specialist with the horse industry branch in Edmonton.

"The show is an opportunity to evaluate and identify superior horses in the province," says Coleman. "It is worthwhile to a breeder to be recognized as the best in this competiton."

Each of the three breeds will show in a yearling class; a produce of dam class which means a foal or yearling plus another horse of any age, as long as both have the same dam and a performance class for two, three and four year olds.

All animals in the yearling and performance classes must be bred in Alberta and Alberta owned. In the produce of dam class the brood mare must be Alberta owned.

(Cont'd)

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July draft horse show planned (cont'd)

Judges for this year's show includes two men from the draft horse industry and a Calgary equine veterinarian.

Wayne McKenzie of Moose Jaw and Ross Beattie, of Staynor, Ontario will be joined by Dr. Wayne Burwash of Calgary in the show ring to provide adjudication.

Each competitor will be provided with a written copy of the judges' decision.

Details and entry forms are available from the horse industry branch offices: 905, O.S. Longman Building, 6906 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2 or Room 205, 2003 McKnight Blvd. N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6L2.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150
or
Les Burwash
291-4596

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Handle treated seed with care

While treating seed with pesticide plays a valuable role in protecting the crop Alberta farmers are urged to handle the chemicals with care.

Dr. Moe Hussain, of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division in Edmonton, says some safeguards are needed when using the chemicals.

Insecticides such as lindane, carbofuran and terbufos are commonly used to control wireworms and flea beetles in cereal and oilseed crops.

Lindane is sold in combination with fungicides in dual-purpose seed-treated formulations. These are designed to control wireworms or flea beetles and plant diseases at the same time. The formulations are available in liquid or dust form. Carbofuran, under the registered trade name Furadan, and terbufos, under the registered trade name Counter, are sold in granular formulations and are meant to control flea beetles.

Hussain says usually the chemicals are mixed with the seed on the farm using an auger, a cement mixer or right in the drill box prior to planting.

"However, these are fairly toxic chemicals and farmers should take certain precautions when working with them," says Dr. Hussain.

(Cont'd)

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Handle treated seed with care (cont'd)

He says it is wise to mix the seed and pesticide in a well-ventilated area and farmers should wear a respirator, goggles and rubber gloves. Also a paddle or stick should be used for mixing rather than bare hands.

Seed already treated with seed-dressings containing lindane can be bought from most seed cleaning plants in Alberta. Bags are labelled with the name of the treatment chemical. Dr. Hussain warns farmers to wear gloves even when handling pre-treated seed.

During clean-up Dr. Hussain again advises that precautions need to be taken. Drill boxes, cement mixers and augers should not be cleaned with bare hands and any leftover seed should be buried and never fed to cattle or left lying around.

Farmers who've been over-exposed to chemicals and begin to feel symptoms such as chest tightness, tremors, blurred vision and nausea should see a doctor at once.

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Contact: Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Disposable clothing provides an option

The jury is still out on whether disposable clothing is practical for everyday farm use, but experts with Alberta Agriculture say it is one option to be considered in minimizing the risk in using toxic farm chemicals.

While there are no conclusive answers, the disposable coveralls which came on the market in the last couple years may be the route to go says Bertha Eggertson, clothing and textiles specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Research is just being done now with a group of Alberta farmers to test the disposables in everyday situations.

Protective clothing of some kind is necessary when using any form of toxic chemical, whether it be insecticide, herbicide or fungicide. Traditional advice, which still applies, has called on anyone using the pesticides to wear an extra layer of clothing to keep chemical contact with the skin to a minimum.

But other research has shown normal washing of coveralls, used as that protective layer, isn't getting all the pesticide out of the material.

(Cont'd)

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Disposable clothing provides an option (cont'd)

Eggertson says the results of tests done with a cotton twill fabric contaminated with field levels of Treflan and Avadex herbicides, showed that a normal farm wash didn't get rid of all the chemical.

Using the fabric most similar to coveralls and jeans, contaminated with oil based chemical formulations, results showed that after one regular wash about 25 per cent of the Treflan was still in the material, while about 50 per cent of the Avadex was retained.

The best results came from using a stain removal spray and two normal washes which left 9 per cent of Treflan and 18 per cent of Avadex in the material.

The wash tests were repeated nine times and the percentages represent an average of the results.

But perhaps, the better solution, according to Eggertson is to see if disposable clothing is a practical alternative.

Disposable coveralls are available for less than $10 a pair. Eggertson advises farmers to get the right type of disposable for the job being done. Some are made for painting or gardening or to keep out dust and soil. She says make sure the disposable is meant for pesticide use.

(Cont'd)

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Disposable clothing provides an option (cont'd)

Eggertson says although the manufacturers provide instructions with the disposables she recommends the garments not be washed. Although the manufacturer suggests washing, Eggertson says it appears washing increases the material's ability to absorb chemicals.

Research being done with farmers in actual field use will measure the value of clothing from several standpoints.

Eggertson says the disposables will be rated for such things as comfort, durability, effectiveness, ease of wear, cost, design, convenience and acceptance.

"We might find that disposables will be the best solution," says Eggertson. "A farmer can afford to use them, perhaps wear them for two or three days, get a good level of protection and then dispose of them."

She notes the contaminated disposables should not be thrown out or burned like regular garbage. She says the clothing should be wrapped in plastic and buried in an approved landfill area.

Eggertson also recommended, as a precaution, the clothing worn under the disposables should be washed separate from the family wash.

Results of the research should be available later this year.

Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

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hone: (403) 427-2121

May 26, 1986

For immediate release

Receives training in Innisfail

A Saskatchewan native has joined the Alberta Agriculture staff in Innisfail to learn the technique of being a district agriculturist.

Corey Loessin, who was raised on the family farm northeast of Saskatoon has joined the department staff in Innisfail as a district agriculturist in training. The announcement was made by Alan Hall, director of Alberta Agriculture's north central region.

Loessin graduated this year from the University of Saskatchewan with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture, specializing in agricultural mechanics and crops.

Along with learning the ropes in Innisfail, Loessin will also be able to offer advice to farmers on production marketing.

He says he is looking forward to working in the Innisfail area as it is similar to the agricultural community near his home.

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Contact: Corey Loessin
227-6565

Coming Agricultural Events

1986

Water Management Conference
Montebello, Quebec.....May 27 - 30

Canadian Dietetetic Association Annual Conference
Expand Your Horizons
Hotel Saskatchewan and Centre of the Arts
Regina, Saskatchewan.....June 1 - 5
Lynn Minja - (306) 787-5179

Canada Agfest '86
Featuring 1986 Canadian Plowing Championships and
33rd World Plowing Match
Olds College
Olds, Alberta.....May 29 - June 3
Bob McFadyen - 556-7569

Drought-The Impending Crisis
Regina, Saskatchewan.....June 3 - 6
K. Jones - (306) 780-6414

Agriculture Workshop for Lenders
Olds College
Olds, Alberta.....June 8 - 13
Doug Barlund - 556-4245

Livestock Industry Institute
Seattle Sheraton Hotel & Towers
Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.....June 18
Micheal Sweet - (816) 531-2235

Livestock Industry Congress '86
Theme: "Risk and the Emerging Livestock and Meat Industry"
Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.....June 18
Cynthia Fernald - (816) 531-2235

29th Conference of the Canadian Institute of Food Science Technology
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta.....June 29 - July 2
Dr. Dave Schroder - 986-4793

Breton Plots Field Day
Theme: Understanding Soil Tests
University of Alberta.....July 4
Jim Robertson - 432-4942

(Cont'd)

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Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

6th International Farm Management Congress
(Managing Food Systems)
Minneapolis
Minnesota, U.S.A.....June 29 - July 4

"Age of Information"
Agriculture Institute of Canada, Annual Conference
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....July 6 - 10
Jack Braidek - (306) 665-3519

International Feed Legume
Legume Research Conference
Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.....July 6 - 11

World Charolais Federation Annual Meeting
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta.....July 9 - 12
Joyce Stewart - (403) 276-9242

Canadian Seed Growers' Association Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn
Ottawa, Ontario.....July 10 - 11
Joe Campbell - (613) 236-0497

American Society of Animal Science, Annual Conference
Fresno, California.....July 13 - 18

World Sheep and Wool Congress
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta.....July 15 - 21
Bob Gary - 471-7364

Agriculture Canada Centennial Field Day
Lethbridge Research Station
Lethbridge, Alberta.....July 19
J.C.M. L'Arrivee 327-4561

The Society For Range Management Annual Range Tour
Stavely Range Station (12 miles west of Stavely, Alberta)
Bob Wroe - 423-4214 Edmonton Line.....July 24 - 26
782-4641

3rd International Conference on Animal Genetics
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A.....July 17 - 22
Phone: (402) 472-3574

(Cont'd)

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Ranch Day
Dept. of Animal Science
University of Alberta
Beef Cattle Research Ranch
Kinsella, Alberta.....July 25
Torc Macdonald - 336-2328 Kinsella
A. Stephen - 432-2343 Animal Science

Canadian Galloway Association Annual Meeting
Brooks, Alberta.....July 26
Mike Page - (403) 548-6622

Agriculture Canada Tillage-Soil Conservation Workshop
Regina, Saskatchewan.....August 6
Judy Wilson - (306) 585-0255

Agriculture Canada Centennial Field Day
Indian Head Experimental Farm
Indian Head, Saskatchewan.....August 7
Judy Wilson - (306) 585-0255

Food Pacific
International Food Show
B.C. Place.....August 28 - September 2
Fran Cullen - 427-4241

Agtranspo "86
A conference on the distribution of agricultural products to
Pacific Rim countries
The Westin Bayshore Hotel
Vancouver, British Columbia.....September 2 - 4
Information - (613) 995-5880

Lambs in Lacombe
Family Fair and Commercial ewe lamb sale.....September 20
Exhibition Grounds
Lacombe, Alberta
John Hull

Agritech Exhibition & Professional Agriculture Tours
Tel Aviv, Israel.....September
Yaffa Dattner - (403) 228-3310

Alberta Irrigation Projects Assocaition Annual Conference
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta.....November 17
Diane Virostek - 654-4150

(Cont'd)

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Coming Agricultural events (cont'd)

Annual Convention of the Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta
Nisku Inn
Nisku, Alberta
Ted Koopmans - 428-6981.....November 27

Unifarm Annual Convention
Edmonton Inn,
Edmonton, Alberta.....January 12 - 15
Willow Webb - 451-5912

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1 Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international, agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in July, August or September 1986 or any events omitted in the attached list?

2. What are the dates? Please be sure to state whether 1986 or 1987.

3. Where are they being held? Please state the hotel if known.

4. Please be sure to state the name, address and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by the 15th of July 1986 to:

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Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000-113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 2, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Farmers advised to check for odd-sized wheels.....1

Crop insurance officials watching for fraud.....4

Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame to be dedicated.....6

Alberta Women's Week set for July.....8

Manifest needed when moving livestock.....10

Hard water can be tamed.....12

The great sunflower contest begins.....15

Top U.S. collegiate judge to tour Alberta livestock events.....17

Correction.....19

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June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Farmers advised to check for odd-sized wheels

Alberta farmers are advised to look out for an odd-sized wheel on a line of German-made farm equipment that can be hazardous if matched with North American-built tires.

Safety experts say there is nothing wrong with the Claas-brand combines and balers on the market, but the wheel rims manufactured by Lemmerz in Germany won't properly accept American-made tires.

A spokesman for Claas of America in Saskatoon says his company stopped using the odd-sized wheels, altogether, about three years ago. He says farmers should check the wheel rim on older model equipment to determine the tire size. European tires are available from Claas implement dealers.

According to a warning from the Manitoba department of environment and workplace safety and health, one farmer in that province was killed and other non-injury mishaps have been reported, when North American tires, used on the German rims, exploded.

Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program in Edmonton, says he is not aware of any similar problems in Alberta, but is advising farmers to pay attention.

According to the Manitoba government the Lemmerz rims are stamped with 9.00 - 15, indicating a standard tire size. However, Dan Barlett a safety officer with the Manitoba government says the German 9.00 - 15 rim is slightly larger than the North American tire size.

"What can happen is that a farmer tries putting a North American tire on these rims, they don't seat properly, so he puts more air in the tire and eventually it explodes," says Bartlett.

(Cont'd)

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Russell Myggland, service advisor for Claas of America in Saskatoon says the older model rims he has seen have actually been stamped with 900 - 15.3 indicating a larger tire size. Myggland says this rim is almost an inch bigger than North American tires and it is difficult to get a domestic tire to fit over the rim.

Another indicator of the odd-sized rim, he says, is that the 15.3 rim has five studs, while the newer standard-American 900 - 15 rim has six studs.

This European-size rim was discontinued on Claas combines in the mid-1960s, says Myggland. It wasn't discontinued on Claas balers until the early 1980s.

Allen Krahn, a Farm Implement Act engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says the Claas-brand equipment is sold in Alberta but he has not heard any reports of problems in this province.

In Manitoba the Lemmerz rims were found on Claas (or Klaas or Klaus)-brand combines and balers distributed by Ford Tractor and Equipment Operations of Canada and Co-op Implements Limited under their respective trade names.

Officials say there is nothing wrong with the Lemmerz rims as long as they carry German-made tires, however, they fear the problem might worsen since the European tires cost a reported three times more than North American tires.

"When faced with the cost differential and assuming the European and North American tires are the same size, a farmer purchasing a replacement tire for a Lemmerz wheel would likely purchase a North American replacement tire," says the Manitoba official.

Myggland says the German-made tires are more expensive because they are 8-ply highway tires compared to lower-ply tires made in America for farm use.

(Cont'd)

Farmers advised to check for odd-sized wheels (cont'd)

He said Claas dealers in Alberta do have access to the German-made tires to fit the odd-sized rim. Myggland said other brand names of farm equipment manufactured in Europe either have used or still are using the larger rims.

Kyeremanteng advises any Alberta farmer using equipment manufactured by Claas, or other lines of European made machinery, to check the rim size or consult with the dealer to see if the machinery carries Lemmerz rims or find out if it will take North American tires.

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Crop insurance officials watching for fraud

Anyone thinking about cheating on their crop insurance claims had better think again, says an official with the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

Ed Patching, general manager of the corporation, in Lacombe, says his office is stepping up its random audits in an attempt to nab any claimants trying to take advantage of the insurance company.

Patching says fraudulent claims aren't a big problem for the corporation but he wants to make sure it stays that way.

Last year the corporation made payments to 24,182 individual claims.

"We find very little fraud," says Patching. "We do hear reports of it, although we're not sure if all the reports are founded.

"We've always made random audits, but we are stepping them up right now to be on the safe side."

Patching says the tough economic times may prompt some farmers to take advantage of the situation.

The general manager points out that according to the contract for insurance any claim is automatically void if someone is found trying to conceal information or misrepresent facts or commits any fraud.

Although no insurance will be paid out, the premium is still considered payable, says Patching.

And just cancelling the insurance isn't the only penalty a claimant will face, he says. If the case warrants, the matter will be turned over to the attorney general's department for criminal prosecution.

The random audit will involve a thorough investigation of claims. Patching says inspectors will check insurance claims against grain delivery records and information from claims made under the Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program.

(Cont'd)

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Also, to be followed up are individual reports such as a farmer being paid for combining by an insurance claimant who supposedly had no crop at all.

The investigation may also involve an on site farm audit.

"Because fradulent claims affect all policyholders, the corporation will continue to depend on tips from policy holders with the understanding confidentiality will be respected," says Patching.

"The crop insurance program is based on the honesty and integrity of its policyholders," he says. "While we do not wish to cause alarm nor to leave the impression that misrepresentation is rampant, we want to make it clear that dishonesty will not be tolerated."

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Contact: Ed Patching
782-4661

June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame to be dedicated

The Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame will receive a home this week with the dedication, June 5, of a show case in Edmonton.

The Alberta minister of agriculture, Peter Elzinga, is expected to officiate at the dedication ceremony on the second floor of the J.G. O'Donoghue building, headquarters for the department. Deputy minister Ben McEwen will act as chairman for the ceremony.

The hall of fame has been without a showplace since it was created in 1971, explains Ted Youck, head of the 4-H branch in Edmonton. Although 21 long-time supporters of 4-H programs have been inducted into the hall, there was no designated area to display their photos and histories.

Participating in the June 5 ceremony will be Sherry Roth, of Heisler, in one of her first official functions as winner of the 1986 Premier's Award, as the top 4-H member in the province.

Elizabeth Buday of Tilley, the new president of the Alberta 4-H Council, will also speak.

Candidates for the hall of fame are nominated by the public with the nominations reviewed by a committee.

The nominees must have been involved with 4-H for at least 15 years and have contributed significantly to the organization on the local, district, regional and provincial level.

The review committee selects one to three new inductees each year. The successful candidates are inducted at the annual Alberta 4-H Leaders Conference in November.

Three deceased members of the hall of fame are Fredrick Bell, a former district agriculturist and two former 4-H leaders, Stan Gould from the Rosalind-area and Robert Bunbury from the Alliance area.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame to be dedicated (cont'd)

Invited to participate in the dedication ceremony are hall of fame inductees including former Alberta Agriculture staffers such as Fred Miller of Edmonton, W.S. Scarth, now living in Victoria, Frederick Newcombe, of Edmonton, Peter Wyllie of Leduc, Jack Kerns of Edmonton, Margaret Arnold of Calgary and Les Usher of Edmonton.

Sponsors and supporters belonging to the hall of fame include, Robert Hingston, of Calgary, previously with the Royal Bank, Joe Dabinett, Ed Ness and Norman Bell all of Calgary, formerly with Alberta Wheat Pool and Grant McEwan, former lieutenant govenor for the province and long-time supporter of the 4-H program.

4-H leaders named to the hall include Allan Shenfield, of Spruce Grove, Robert Burns of Pickardville, John Moore of Tofield, Dorothy Schnell of Castor, Bill Palmer of Medicine Hat and Reg Gray of Sherwood Park.

Other guests at the ceremony will include members of the Alberta 4-H Council, members of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, sponsors, department staff members and friends of 4-H.

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Contact: Ted Youck
427-2541

June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Alberta Women's Week set for July

Jean Yancey, may be in her 70s, but the active Denver, Colorado businesswoman won't be talking about slowing down according to organizers of next month's Alberta Women's Week conference in Olds.

Yancey, who is keynote speaker at the 56th annual conference is also on the board of directors of Denver's Women's Bank and a member of the steering committee of the annual Women and Business Conference. She will talk on "Meeting Life's Challenges and Having Fun Doing It".

Organized by Alberta Agriculture home economists, the July 21 to 24 conference, being held at Olds Agricultural College, has selected "It's Up to Me" as this year's theme.

Closing the conference will be Wally Evdokimoff, an instructor with the business management program at Lethbridge Community College with advice on developing a positive attitude.

According to Susan Myer, regional home economist in Fairview and publicity chairman for the conference, there are very revelant aspects to this year's agenda.

The impact of free trade will be one of the topics discussed through a forum on Canada - U.S. agricultural trade relations.

Dr. Joe Rosario, an Alberta Agriculture economics advisor, will act as moderator with spokesmen for poultry, beef, milk producers and Alberta Wheat Pool forming the panel.

There are several optional sessions available to conference delegates covering everything from balancing the farm cash flow, to learning how to make the policitical system work for you, keeping yards and gardens looking good, food drying, stress-free entertaining, nutrition, diet and creative floral designs, to name a few.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta Women's Week set for July (cont'd)

A new feature this year is a farm home tour, with the department home design specialist leading a bus tour of well-designed farm homes in the Olds area.

Registration for the conference is $20, with accommodation available at the college for $90.70 for a double or $120.70 for single.

Daycare and daycamp facilities are also available in Olds. Registration deadline is July 4.

For more information contact Susan Myer, publicity chairman, at 835-2291 or Kathy Lowther, program publicity liaison, in Vulcan at 485-2236.

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Contact: Susan Myer
835-2291

June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Manifest needed when moving livestock

Cattle and horse owners who find they're on the road again with livestock now that spring is here, are reminded a manifest is needed anytime the animals are being moved.

The simple form, filled out by the livestock owner, is aimed at reducing theft of cows and horses says Ken Spiller, head of regulatory services for Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Anyone found transporting animals without a completed manifest faces a minimum $50 fine and could have a lot of explaining to do says Spiller.

The manifest requirement, which has been spelled out in the Livestock Brand Inspection Act for years, applies to anyone whether they be a rancher, hobby farmer or any livestock owner.

There are a couple exceptions to the rule says Spiller. If the owner is hauling cattle or horses, less than 16 kilometres (about 10 miles) and is taking the animal to property he owns, no manifest is required. This 16 kilometre limit does not apply if the animal is being taken to a market, community pasture, feedlot or forest reserve.

Also if the owner is taking an animal to or from a veterinary clinic, no manifest is needed.

But beyond those limits, a completed form must be carried by the owner in the vehicle and be produced for either a brand inspector or RCMP officer on request.

One option for horse owners who travel a lot with their animals is an annual permit which can be issued by a brand inspector.

(Cont'd)

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Manifest needed when moving livestock (cont'd)

This $1 permit allows the owner to move those horses specifically identified on the permit to any location. The permit is especially helpful for people hauling horses for range work, to gymkhanas and rodeos. Through a reciprocal agreement the Alberta permits are recognized in B.C., Saskatchewan and Montana.

Although brand inspectors will make farm visits, Spiller recommends the best way to obtain a permit is to arrange to meet a brand inspector at an auction market or rodeo and have the horse inspected there.

The brand inspectors or RCMP officers will make random checks of any vehicles hauling cattle or horses to ensure either the manifest or annual horse permit is being used.

Spiller says the brand inspection service plays an important roll in stopping thefts or tracking down missing animals.

Last year the department received reports of 107 missing horses. Through inspection 71 head were located. There was no trace of the other 44 animals, although Spiller says not everyone who reports a horse missing informs the department if the animal is found.

Similarly with cattle, the department was notified of 1,364 head missing and was able to track down 258 animals through inspections. Again, Spiller says the department doesn't usually receive reports if animals eventually are found.

The manifest books are available free from the Alberta Agriculture regulatory services office in Edmonton, from brand inspectors and from most district agriculturists.

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Contact: Ken Spiller
427-5098

June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Hard water can be tamed

If the dish soap isn't billowing out of the sink like the TV commercials suggest, or there is an annoying crust building up in the tea kettle perhaps it's time to do something about that hard tap water.

And living with hard water can be more than just an inconvenience says an expert with Alberta Agriculture. That scaley build up can actually be costing money.

The problem generally isn't that hard to cure, says Archie Archampong, a water engineer in Edmonton, although degrees of water hardness vary widely from area to area and in the most severe cases it might be wise to find a better water source.

In technical terms water hardness is caused by dissolved calcium and magnesium minerals in the water. When soap is added to hard water the dissolved calcium and magnesium minerals tie up some of the soap. In doing so, the hardness is reduced and the remaining soap is free to lather.

The soap, that is tied up by the dissolved minerals, forms an insoluble scum that floats on the water. The harder the water, the more soap used and the more scum.

Archampong also explains there are two types of water hardness.

Temporary water hardness is caused when the calcium and magnesium are linked to dissolved bicarbonates in the water. The calcium and magnesium settle out when the water is heated causing scaling of water pipes and "kettle fur".

Permanent hardness means there is no change in water condition when the water is heated. In this case the calcium and magnesium are linked to dissolved sulphate and chloride minerals. The hardness can only be removed through water softening.

(Cont'd)

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Hard water can be tamed (cont'd)

To determine how bad the problem is, Archampong suggests having water tested at a lab. Hardness is measured in milligrams per litre (mg/L) or grains per gallon (gpg).

"In Alberta water hardness varies from next to nothing to well over 1,000 mg/L," says Archampong. "Consider softening the water when the hardness of your water supply is greater than 100 mg/L. If the water hardness is greater than 1,000 mg/L consider switching to a better water source. It is not practical to soften water with this level of hardness."

Surface water has more hardness than ground water and shallow wells usually have more hardness than water from deep wells.

There really isn't much good to be said about hard water. It makes cleaning harder, demands more soap and requires the use of fabric softeners to get the mineral deposits out of fabric.

The scaling can shorten the life of appliances such as humidifiers, dishwashers and washing machines, and reduces the water pipe diameter forcing pumps to work harder. Also with water boilers and heaters the build up increases fuel needs, adding to farm operation costs.

Introducing polyphosphates into the water supply system or using a water conditioner are two ways to deal with hard water, although Archampong says he prefers the water conditioner method.

Polyphosphates fed into the water system don't remove water hardness, they only nullify the effect of the calcium and magnesium minerals and permit soap to lather, says Archampong. This method is expensive and the effectiveness is short lived.

The best way to deal with hard water is to install a water conditioner, says Archampong. The hard water passes through a filter of dissolved sodium mineral which takes out the calcium and magnesium. This method does add some sodium to the water. Archampong suggests a separate by-pass line be installed for drinking water.

When the sodium in the conditioner filter runs out it can be replaced with common salt.

(Cont'd)

Hard water can be tamed (cont'd)

Details on water softener specifications and a trouble shooting guide can be found in the Alberta Agriculture publication, Water Softening (Agdex 716 D32). Copies are available at district agriculturist offices and the Publications Office, 7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Also further advice on individual water treatment problems can be obtained from district agriculturists, district home economists or the following regional engineering staff: Orin Kenzie, Lethbridge, 381-5112; Rich Smith, Airdrie, 948-5101; Ken Williamson, Red Deer, 340-5324; Larry Wasylik, Vermilion, 853-8109; Bob Buchanan, Barrhead, 674-8253, or Bill Cornwell, Fairview, 835-2291.

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Contact: Regional Engineer
(Your area)

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June 2, 1986
For immediate release

The great sunflower contest begins

The person with the best green thumb could win a trip for two to Brazil this fall if they can grow the tallest sunflower plant in Alberta.

The Great Alberta Sunflower Growing Contest, which is now underway, is aimed at not only providing some fun and a holiday, but also at making people aware of some of the worries Alberta farmers face.

Organized by Agaware, a provincial institute dedicated to promoting the agriculture industry, the contest is open to anyone in the province over 16 years of age. Diana Barton, executive director of Agaware in Okotoks, says urban dwellers are urged to pit their skills against those of rural Alberta to see who has the best growing ability.

Alberta Agriculture was among the founding members of Agaware in 1983 and continues to be a moral and financial supporter. Membership in the institute ranges from government agencies to individual farmers and producers, right through to food processors, wholesalers, retailers and consumers, says Barton.

The sunflower growing contest has just been announced in the latest edition of Alberta Farm and Ranch magazine, another supporter of Agaware. It also appears in Spring 86, the urban edition of the magazine.

Anyone interested in participating in the contest can register at their nearest UFA Store, or at Alberta Farm and Ranch, Northill Publications, 1243 McKnight Blvd., Calgary, T2E 5T2, or call 250-6633.

Along with the $2 registration fee, the entrant receives instructions and a package of 15 hybrid sunflower seeds.

Growers can use any seeds they like, but the hybrid seeds are a known good variety and each plant should produce only one seed head.

(Cont'd)

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Great sunflower growing contest underway (cont'd)

Barton says the entrant can grow as many plants as he or she likes, but only one plant per person can be registered for the contest. When the plant reaches 6.5 feet, the entrant must telephone the toll-free number supplied with the registration form to actually register the plant being entered in the contest.

"From that point on the person will face all the problems an Alberta farmer faces every day," says Barton.

The sunflower plant must be grown outside and will have to suffer through wind and other weather variations just like a regular crop. The plant can be staked and tied, but it must be open to the elements.

"If you have a 15 foot plant and it gets blown over two days before the day of judging, it can't be counted," says Barton. "We're looking for the tallest surviving plant."

With the contest closing Labor Day, directors of Agaware will visit contestants, around that holiday, to record the official plant heights.

Barton also offers a few tips for the growers. The seeds should be planted so the sunflower gets full sun by 11 a.m.; if it has too much shade it will be weak.

It should be watered once a week, unless it rains. Again too much water will make for a shallow root system and a weak plant.

Fertilizer or other plant growth food can be used as needed.

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Contact: Diana Barton
938-2750

June 2, 1986
For immediate release

Top U.S. collegiate judge to tour Alberta livestock events

It's a long way from Denver to Edmonton, but a Colorado State University student will be in the capital and other provincial centres this July for a look at some of Alberta's top livestock.

Todd James Wise, 21, will be having a look at some of the best sheep and beef cattle in the province as part of the prize he received for winning top honors in the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

The trip was sponsored and co-ordinated by the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) as part of its effort to promote Alberta livestock. The association works with the support of Alberta Agriculture market development division. The division plays a major role in arranging Alberta participation at livestock shows and exhibitions throughout North America.

"And we supply the manpower," says Norma Dunn, of Calgary, secretary of the association which is dedicated to promoting Alberta beef, dairy and sheep livestock across the continent.

According to Ken Lang of Olds, executive member of ACABA this is the first time the association has presented the award and it is hoped to make it an annual event.

Wise was named top overall individual in collegiate judging at the Denver show. Some 55 teams, each with five members and a coach, were required to judge classes of hogs, sheep, horses, beef steers and beef heifers.

Wise, who is to be married in June, and his wife, will tour Alberta July 11 to 19 with stops at the Calgary Stampede, the World Charolais Sale, the Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show, Klondike Days and the World Sheep and Wool Congress.

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Ken Lang, left, of Olds an executive member of the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) meets with Todd James Wise of Loveland, Colorado who will be touring Alberta in July as a guest of the association. Wise won the trip offered by the ACABA after he was named top U.S. collegiate judge at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Contact: Norma Dunn
282-8181

Correction

In an article in the May 19, 1986 Agri-news regarding the nitrate content in farm water supplies it should have read that nitrate by itself is not harmful, but when it is converted into the NITRITE form by naturally occuring bacteria in the gut system the effect is poisonous. The NITRITE combines with the red blood cells to make them inefficient in carrying oxygen.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 9, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Deadline nears for meat stabilization plans.....1

Tent caterpillars make appearance.....3

Preconditioning calves worth the effort.....5

No major changes in irrigated land values.....7

Self-treatment stations help keep pests away from livestock.....9

Beef and hog markets should improve in 1986.....13

Lamb market looks favorable for 1986.....15

4-H representatives plan Indiana trip.....16

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June 9, 1986
For immediate release

Deadline nears for meat stabilization plan

Alberta Agriculture can provide the information, but farmers will have to make the actual decision on whether they want to participate in the Alberta Red Meat Stabilization Program.

Fred Schuld, program administrator with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says the department is explaining the details of the program to as many farmers as possible before the June deadlines.

However Schuld said the decision to join the plan rests with the farmers.

"I think the farmer has to decide whether he can afford the risks on the open market," says Schuld. "Can he afford those wide fluctuations that can occur from year to year? Potential benefits depend on future prices and these are hard to predict."

Initial deadlines for joining the recently announced program, which has some comparisons to an insurance program, are in mid-to-late June depending on what type of livestock is raised and sold.

The program is open to any Alberta producer, of hogs, lambs, slaughter cattle and feeder calves (cow-calf).

The Alberta farmer is one of three partners in the scheme, the other two being the provincial and federal governments. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Prince Edward Island are also participating in the national program.

Each partner pays an equal annual premium. If the national average price on the open market falls below that established through formulas, then farmers who subscribe to the program will each receive an equal payment, per animal, based on the difference between the market price and the formula price.

(Cont'd)

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Deadline nears for meat stabilization plan (cont'd)

"There is no guaranteed market price to an individual," says Schuld. "The formulas are based on national averages."

There are four separate schemes for four livestock groups: hogs, lambs, slaughter cattle and feeder calf producers. The similarities and differences in the details for each scheme can be explained by district agriculturists or the red meat stablization office in Edmonton.

The deadline for registration for lamb and hog producers is June 15, while slaughter cattle and feeder calves can be registered by June 30. A farmer can join the program after these dates, but the percentage of payout in the first year is reduced.

A farmer joining now is part of the red-meat stabilization program until it terminates in 1995. He can opt out earlier, but he must give three years written notice.

"It would be nice if there was simple formula that said if you meet, this, this and this requirement, then you should join the program," says Schuld. "But there isn't. In looking over historical averaging periods we asked, 'if we had this program then, how often would it have been used?' and we found that about in 30 to 50 per cent of the quarters or years there would have been a payout. But, again, there is no guarantee the next 10 years will be the same."

Producers interested in details on the program should check with their district agriculturist for any meetings in their district, or ask the DA for information. They can also contact the Alberta Red Meat Stabilization Office, Alberta Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, 9th floor, Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton, Alberta, or call toll-free using the RITE number 422-0137.

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Contact: Fred Schuld
427-5320 or
422-0137

June 9, 1986
For immediate release

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Tent caterpillars make appearance (cont'd)

Linowski says a tree in good vigor can withstand two seasons of being hit by caterpillars and still survive. However, she says a tree in its third or four year of defoliation runs a risk of winterkill.

Gary Still, a forest research technician with the Canadian Forest Service in Edmonton, says an egg survey done last fall indicates the outbreak of forest tent caterpillars should be no worse than last year.

Still says the egg count, in general terms, showed no unusual level of eggs around the province. Outbreaks have already been reported as far north as Athabasca.

Although no reason has been found, Still has noticed a large part of the poplar and aspen stands on the east side of the province appear dead.

"It seems from Vegreville to the Saskatchewan border there are large patches of dead popular and aspen," he says. "It would appear weather related, but I'm not sure what the problem is."

Still said if a significant number of trees are dead it could reduce the tent caterpillar population.

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Contact: Kathy Linowski
362-3391

June 9, 1986
For immediate release

Preconditioning calves worth the effort

Conditioning calves to better withstand the initial shock of auction marts and feedlots is worth the money and effort, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Terry Church, head of the health management branch in Edmonton, says signing up for the certified preconditioning program and following through with procedures should put more money in the rancher's pocket on sale day.

The program, which has been operating in Alberta for six years, has proven successful in the United States over the last 20 years, says Church.

Alberta ranchers should give some thought now to joining the program this summer, he says.

The basic theory being applied is if a buyer knows the animal he's getting can better handle the stress of the auction and the move into a feedlot, he'll pay more for it.

Through the certified preconditioning program, the calves arrive at the auction with a veterinary's certificate saying they are better able to cope with the changes ahead.

According to a study done by George Meyerholz, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the certified program could add $200 to $500 million a year to U.S. farm incomes.

Meyerholz's report said, 80 per cent of all losses in feedlot cattle are caused by respiratory diseases and 71 per cent of all fatal cases happen within 45 days of entering the feedlot. About one or two per cent of the newly arrived cattle die.

However, the major economic loss to the feedlot owner is shrink and the lost time in getting a stalled animal gaining weight. According to the study the losses are estimated at $15 to $25 per head.

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Preconditioning calves worth the effort (cont'd)

Through preconditioning many of the problems are eliminated or reduced. The mortality rate at the feedlot is down and sickness is reduced.

U.S. cattle involved in the program were bringing an extra $2 to $/ per 100 pounds and gained between 45 and 75 pounds more during the 30-day post weaning period.

Church says it is hard to make any guarantees about the program, but 20 or more years of experience in the U.S. has shown the procedure works.

He says the program needs to be certified because there were too many producers advertising "preconditioned" cattle that weren't really preconditioned. Through the Alberta program the buyer can be sure of what he is getting.

Details on the preconditioning program can be obtained from district agriculturists or by calling Dr. Terry Church at 436-9343.

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Contact: Dr. Terry Church
436-9343

June 9, 1986
For immediate release

No major change in irrigated land values

Compared to the big decline in 1982, the value of irrigated land in the province hasn't changed that much in the last couple years, according to figures released by Alberta Agriculture researchers.

In a comparison of 1984 and 1985 land sales involving irrigated land there has been an overall drop in value of about three per cent says Julie Egglestone, a resource economist. Some districts have shown an increase in values during the same period.

Values reported on rural land transfers registered at Alberta land titles offices were used to estimate the market values, says Egglestone.

Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District, St. Mary River Irrigation District and Taber Irrigation District had the highest average values followed by Bow River and Eastern Irrigation District.

The land quality is based on ratings by the Canada Land Inventory.

Class 2 land in Lethbridge Northern was valued at $1,247 per acre in 1984 compared with $1,130 in 1985. Number three land in this district was worth $1,089 in 1984 compared to $888 in 1985. Class 1 land in Lethbridge Northern was valued at $1,484 in 1984, although there was no comparison figure for 1985.

In the Taber district, Class 1 land was valued at $1,277 per acre in 1984 compared to $1,214 in 1985. The best land in the St. Mary district was valued at $1,262 an acre in 1984 compared with $1,164 in 1985.

In the Eastern Irrigation District, Class 1 land was valued at $850 an acre in 1984 compared with $785 in 1985. The value of number two land in the Raymond district dropped from $790 an acre in 1984 to $772 in 1985.

Land values in the Bow River, Magrath, Mountain View, United and Western districts all were up slightly compared with 1984.

(Cont'd)

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No major changes in irrigated-land values (cont'd)

Number one land in the Bow River district was valued at $977 in 1984 compared with $1,017 in 1985.

Number two land in the Western district went from $880 in 1984 to $883, while Class 2 land in the Mountain View district went from $692 in 1984 to $849 in 1985. Values in the Magrath district, for Class 2 land, went from $454 an acre in 1984 to $880 an acre in 1985. Values in the United district grew from $632 an acre in 1984 to $674 in 1985.

Egglestone notes values in some of the districts many not be statistically accurate because there were fewer sales and transfers on which to base averages. The figures do, however, provide an indicator she says.

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Contact: Julie Egglestone
427-4026

June 9, 1986
For immediate release

Self-treatment stations help keep pests away from livestock

The dilemma of how to get cattle to use face and back oilers may be solved with a couple simple ideas from Alberta Agriculture which don't allow the cows much choice.

Dr. Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says forcing cattle to use the oilers can significantly reduce the torment of flies and other biting insects and ultimately improve livestock performance.

The trick, he says, is to force the cattle to walk through the oiler either for water or salt. Khan has tested the theory with both permanent and portable oiler stations and found both have significant results.

The self-treatment oiler station involves fencing off either the water source or the salt lick and allowing livestock limited access through gates where they must pass under the oiler. Khan suggests a permanent station can be built around a dugout or water source and a portable station can be used with salt licks that are moved from pasture to pasture.

The self-treatment stations are relatively inexpensive, require little maintainance and eliminate the need to herd cattle to apply pesticide treatment.

Khan describes a permanent treatment station built around a water hole as a "forced" self-treatment station. If the cow wants a drink of water it has to pass through the oiler into the enclosure which surrounds the dugout or water source.

In one demonstration on a community pasture near Fort Vermilion, Khan built a 300 foot by 350 foot permanent enclosure around a dugout serving 250 cow-calf pairs. Three seven-foot wide gates were built into the enclosure and each gate was equipped with two Pest-Doom oilers, suspended from headers.

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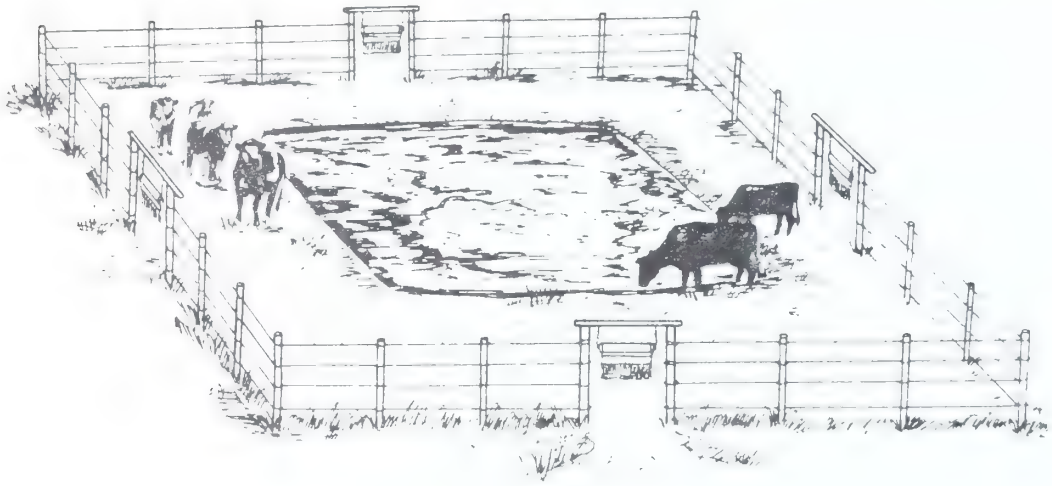

The above diagram shows a permanent self-treatment station around a water hole. Cattle have no choice but to use the oilers suspended above the gates.

The cost of materials to build the enclosure and buy oilers was about $900.

Either Ciovap, ready-to-use solution, or Malathion back-rubber solution can be used with the oilers.

In the forced-used treatment experiment it was found there was a 45 percent reduction in the number of black flies and a 60 percent reduction in mosquitoes. The cattle appeared much more content and had better distribution over the pasture. Khan explains this treatment method was tested in response to cattle deaths in the summer of 1982 due to black-fly attacks.

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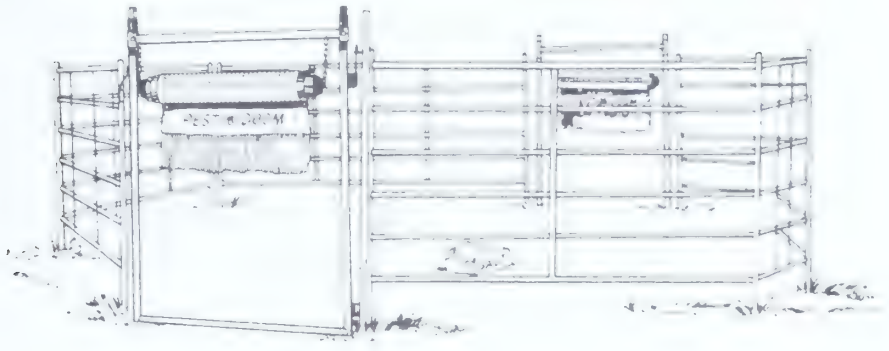

The above diagram shows a portable self-treatment station made from six corral panels, set-up around a salt block.

The portable "free-choice" self-treatment station was set up in Improvement District 18 near Lac La Biche, says Khan. Six portable corral panels were used to make a circular enclosure around a salt block. Two three-foot gates, one on either side of the circle, were equipped with two Pest-Doom back oilers suspended from headers.

The same brand of insecticide used at the permanent station was used here.

In two different studies Khan recorded a 60 to 64 percent reduction in black flies and other biting insects.

Khan's studies showed the cost of insecticide for these treatment methods is less than a penny per day per cow and appears to be far less expensive than other treatment methods.

To measure coverage of pesticide on the animals, Khan, in a separate demonstration applied a die to mineral oil in the oilers. The die showed the distribution of oil on cattle. For the mature animals their faces, backs and sides were well covered with the oil treatment. Calves managed to get good coverage of the insecticide, at least on their faces, which was further distributed to the belly of the cow when they sucked milk.

(Cont'd)

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hone: (403) 427-2121

Self-treatment stations help keep pests away from livestock (cont'd)

Khan says there are other methods such as sprays, ear tags impregnated with insecticide, or tags carrying tape implanted with insecticides but the self-treatment appears to be the most effective for overall pest control.

Khan says some of the other treatment methods are very specific to the type of insect controlled. With more than one blood-feeding insect in the pasture, the self-treatment method eliminates horn-flies and substantially reduces mosquitoes and black-flies.

Details on self-treatment stations are available from all district agriculturists and from Dr. Khan at Alberta Agriculture, 7000 113th St., Edmonton, Alberta.

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Contact: Dr. Ali Khan
427-9051

June 9, 1986
For immediate release

Beef and hog markets should improve in 1986

Beef ranchers and hog farmers won't be rolling in money, but they should find better margins in late 1986 than they did last year says a livestock market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Gordon Herrington, with the market analysis branch in Edmonton, says unless disaster strikes, the indicators suggests there should be a little more room for producers between the cost of production and selling price by fall.

He says probably the consumer won't see any difference at the meat counter...prices should remain about the same. But with the cost of feeding cattle and hogs dropping, along with a greater demand for feeder cattle, the improved conditions should help farmers partially recover from a poor 1985.

Both the beef and pork industries face "the-good-news and the-bad-news" type stories, says Herrington.

For Alberta cattlemen the U.S. Farm Bill will create some "good news" as it causes the cost of feeding livestock to drop. The bill reduces the U.S. loan rates on grain which in turn reduces the cost of feeding.

By fall there should be a strong demand for feeder cattle and calves, says Herrington, and this will affect price.

"The same trend should affect us here, as well," he says.

Another influence on the beef market involves the U.S. Dairy Termination Program, which, over the next 18 months, will bring an estimated 1.55 million dairy animals to be slaughtered for beef.

The bad news is this will put more beef on the market and perhaps make the export of Canadian beef to U.S. markets more difficult. At the same time, in the good news category, the U.S. government has arranged to sell about 90,000 tonnes of beef to Brazil which should reduce much of the surplus.

(Cont'd)

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Beef and hog markets should improve in 1986 (cont'd)

Another trend developing, says Herrington is a widening of the gap between the price the farmer receives and the retail selling price.

"The difference between what the producer gets and the meat counter has widened and probably will continue to widen," says Herrington.

"This isn't quite as bad as it sounds because the cost of producing beef has also been going down.

"The net affect of these main influences is there will be more cattle fed and more beef produced," he says. The feedlot operator will be under the price pressure during the second and third quarters of the year, but as beef supplies start to tighten up in the last quarter, market prices should also start to improve."

In the hog industry, Herrington says reduced supplies of pork during the summmer should keep the price strong througnout North America . It also appears herds will be expanding from this summer onward resulting in an increased production of pork later in the year.

The only thing that will slow down herd expansion in the U.S. is a tightening up of the loans from bankers, says Herrington. He says expansion in western Canada will probably be "fairly substantial".

"The general trend looks fairly good, subject to variations such as labor disputes at packing plants, which have an impact on the industry," says Herrington.

Again he doesn't expect any significant change in retail pork prices.

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Contact: Gordon Herrington
427-5376

June 9, 1986
For immediate release

Lamb market looks favorable for 1986

There shouldn't be too many surprises for lamb producers or consumers this year, with the market expected to remain relatively strong, says an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

Alan Dooley, with the market analysis branch in Edmonton, says the average price for lamb this year is a little lower than last, but still better than it has been historically.

The only factor really concerning the industry is the increasing supply of fresh-chilled lamb imports from New Zealand.

Dooley says consumers have always favored fresh lamb as opposed to frozen. While imports have traditionally been frozen products, improvements in transportation and handling now make it possible for fresh-chilled meats to be imported.

The United States has been shipping fresh-chilled meat into Canada for some time, but the fresh-chilled imports from New Zealand began to really concern the industry last fall.

At the moment, says Dooley, the 135,885 pounds of New Zealand lamb being shipped this year hasn't had a major impact, but it's something the Canadian industry is watching closely.

It appears very little of the fresh-chilled New Zealand imports are sold in Alberta. Alberta slaughter dropped by about 12 per cent during the first quarter of the year, says Dooley, but that reflects a general reduction in flock size.

Dooley says the reduced flock size is partially caused by producers delaying flock expansion until they are sure about market trends.

"It appears we will have a better than average year," he says. "But the decline in slaughter will probably continue until there is some stability in the flock size and more confidence in market conditions."

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June 9, 1986
For immediate release

4-H representatives plan Indiana trip

Two Alberta 4-H program representatives will be leaving for Indiana later this month to attend two 4-H events in the state.

Launi Watrin of Edmonton and Harley Read of Lethbridge will be spending 10 days in Indiana through a program sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Both representatives were selected for this trip because of their "outstanding" involvement in 4-H and their communities, says Delin Sheehan, 4-H summer exchange co-ordinator with Alberta Agriculture in Airdrie.

After a send-off brunch in Calgary, June 22, Watrin and Read will attend the five-day 1986 Indiana State 4-H Junior Leader Conference at the Hoosier 4-H Centre near West Lafayette.

After the conference they will spend a weekend with a host family in a nearby county before attending the June 29, Indiana State 4-H Roundup at Purdue University.

"Through the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Launi and Harley will have the opportunity to learn about the 4-H program in the United States," says Sheehan. "They will be able to meet new friends, develop new leadership skills and experience climate and countryside very different from Alberta."

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Outstanding Alberta 4-H members Launi Watrin and Harley Read will be guests of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerece attending two 4-H events in Indiana this month. Above from left are Barry Bennett of the Bank of Commerce, Watrin, Read and Elizabeth Webster an Alberta Agriculture 4-H specialist from Edmonton.

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Contact: Delin Sheehan
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AGRI-NEWS

June 16, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Tractor demonstrates fuel cost savings.....1

Deadline nears for dugout assistance plan.....4

Taber entry wins mascot contest.....6

Mineral supplement is year round program.....8

Leasing machinery is an option.....12

Soil sterilants can present a hazard.....15

Use the right safety gear with pesticides.....18

Tires may be good for flooring.....19

Alberta chefs prove their talent.....21

Tour planned of canola and cereal crops.....23

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June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Tractor demonstrates fuel cost savings

Alberta Agriculture engineers are launching a tour of the province with a computerized tractor that should show farmers how to save money on fuel costs.

Starting out in Vulcan and Taber this week, with what will actually become a three-year tour of duty, the specially equipped Case tractor and cultivator will be making stops at organized field days as well as offer individual demonstrations for any farmer.

The purpose of the Tractor Fuel-Use Demonstration, says Murray Green, a farm machinery engineer with Alberta Agriculture in Airdrie, is to demonstrate the type of demands routine field work puts on a tractor and how best to operate the equipment to get top fuel economy.

The 1986 Case 2394, with 162 PTO horsepower, has been equipped with an on-board computer which measures the operation of the machine and gives a printout of its findings. Along with the tractor, the demonstration comes with a 24-foot Case International chisel plough which is used to put the load on the tractor.

"Actually this cultivator is fairly light for this size of tractor," says Green. "But the two-wheel drive, high-horsepowered tractor is fairly representative of what is found on Alberta farms. It is used for heavy work, but it is often used for light jobs as well.

"This cultivator is probably on the lighter side, but it can be used to give the tractor a good workout."

The program was developed by Alberta Agriculture while the agriculture mechanics program at Olds Agricultural College was hired under contract to equip the tractor with the computer.

Olds has also hired a project engineer who will travel with and operate the equipment as it tours the province. Alberta Agriculture will organize the demonstrations and provide information staff.

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Case tractor and cultivator to be used in fuel economy demonstration

"The tractor itself really doesn't look any different than any other tractor," says Green. "And I have to give credit to Olds staff for installing the equipment. Everything looks as if it was factory made."

The computer will record fuel consumption and weight placed on the drawbar of the tractor, noting such factors as the gear being used and speed travelled.

As the variables of gear, speed and depth of tillage are changed the computer will provide a comparison showing which operation gives the best fuel economy.

"We're trying to do actual farm work and show if you operate your tractor with a certain combination of factors, you'll probably get better fuel economy," says Green.

This type of on-board computer is not available on tractors now, says the engineer, but he does see it becoming part of a tractor package within the next couple of years.

(Cont'd)

Tractor demonstrates fuel cost savings (cont'd)

In the weeks ahead specific field days are being organized in the province. In Vulcan June 17, the tractor moves on to Taber later that week, then Bow Island and Medicine Hat. It should be in Oyen early in July and then on to Three Hills, Drumheller, Standard, Airdrie and back to Olds in about the third week of July.

The field days will invite area farmers to see the tractor operate and see the type of data it will produce. The program has a schedule to follow, but welcomes individual invitations to do personalized demonstrations on a farmer's land.

"The idea of travelling the province is to see how fuel consumption changes from area to area depending on soil types, moisture and other variables," says Green. "We would be glad to take the equipment to anyone's farm and try it on an acre or two. We will fit it into the schedule somewhere along the line."

The demonstration equipment will make several rounds of the province before the project is complete in 1989, says Green. He hopes to have tried the equipment on at least 500 to 600 one-acre parcels so the department will have a good reference of fuel consumption needs in various soil types for the province.

Details on planned demonstrations can be obtained by calling the district agriculturists.

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Contact: Murray Green
948-5101

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June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Deadline nears for dugout assistance plan

The last chance to apply for the Alberta Agriculture Emergency Dugout Assistance Program is only a few weeks away says a water engineer with the department.

Archie Archampong in Edmonton says a farmer wishing to take advantage of the assistance package has only until July 31 to apply. No further applications will be accepted after that date.

Any projects started under the program must be completed by October 31 this year.

Under the program, Alberta Agriculture helps with the cost of developing on-farm water sources. The developments can include building dugouts and stockwatering dams, rehabilitating existing dugouts and pumping water into dugouts.

The assistance plan was first introduced in July 1985 retroactive to April of last year. It was to have ended in March this year, but was extended with applications accepted until July 31 and work completion deadline set at October 31.

Archampong says Alberta Agriculture matches the money put in by the Prairie Farm Rehabiliation Administration (PFRA) for development of new dugouts and stockwatering dams. The assistance amounts to an additional one-third of the eligible cost or specified unit cost allowance (which ever is less) to a maximum of $1,650. It should be noted that usually the specified unit cost of 22 cents per cubic yard is the limiting factor. The combined maximum grant available from both sources is $3,300, per project.

Assistance for fixing up existing dugouts and stockwatering dams amounts to one-half the eligible cost of improvements to a maximum of $1,000.

(Cont'd)

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Deadline nears for dugout assistance plan (cont'd)

Farmers are required to file application forms at the nearest PFRA and Alberta Agriculture district offices. When the work is completed farmers are to contact PFRA for inspection of projects.

Farmers can also be reimbursed for one-half the eligible cost of renting pumps and irrigation pipes to fill dugouts. If the farmer rents Alberta Agriculture equipment he gets an automatic rebate when paying for the service. Farmers renting from municipalities, companies or other agencies must submit an invoice with their application forms.

"It is important to remind anyone interested in this program they have only until July 31 to submit their application," says Archampong.

Further details on the scheme are available from district agriculturists or the following regional engineers: Orin Kenzie, Lethbridge, 381-5112; Rich Smith, Airdrie, 948-5101; Ken Williamson, Red Deer, 340-5324; Larry Wasylik, Vermilion, 853-8109; Bob Buchanan, Barrhead, 674-8253 or Bill Cornwell, Fairview, 835-2291.

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Contact: Regional Engineer
(Your area)

June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Taber entry wins mascot contest

An entry from a 16-year-old Taber high school student has been selected as the best design for the mascot for the Alberta 4-H program.

A pudgy, bucktoothed beaver next to the 4-H logo was selected the winning entry. Shari Machacek, a Grade 10 student at W.R. Myers High School in Taber will receive the grand prize of $144.44 and several 4-H related prizes.

In making the announcement, Bob Coe, provincial 4-H media production coordinator in Edmonton, says Machacek's entry was judged the best out of 315 entries submitted to the 4-H Mascot Competition.

Alberta students from Grade 4 to Grade 12 were eligible to enter the contest. Judging was completed in late May.

The mascot to be known as "Cleaver" will represent the 4-H program at a variety of functions and become a familiar logo for the program. Coe says a life-size costume of Cleaver will be created and make its debut at the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton Klondike parades in July. Cleaver will also make appearances at fairs and exhibitions.

Along with the grand prize, first and second place winners were also named in three school grade categories.

In first place were Douglas Robinson, 9, a Grade 4 student from St. Paul Elementary School; Jane Rittenhouse, 15 a Grade 8 student at Sifton High School in Camrose and a member of the Camrose Easy Riders 4-H Club and Ken Scott, 16, a Grade 10 student at J.R. Robson High School in Vermilion. Each will receive $88.88 and other related prizes.

In second place were Amy Hollingsworth, 10 of Foremost, a 4-H member and a Grade 5 student from Masinasin School, Carri Downe, 14, a 4-H Light Horse Club member and Grade 9 student at Carbon High School and Darcy Nott, 15, a 4-H Beef Club member and Grade 10 student at Innisfree High School. Each will receive $44.44 and 4-H related prizes.

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This drawing of a pudgy beaver has been selected as the design for the mascot for the Alberta 4-H program. Submitted by Shari Machacek of Taber it was judged best of 315 entries.

The cash prizes were provided jointly be Alberta Grocers Wholesale of Edmonton and Associated Grocers Wholesale of Calgary. This is the third consecutive year these sponsoring companies have taken part in a provincial 4-H promotion.

Contact: Bob Coe
427-2541

June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Mineral supplement is a year round program

Just because cattle are out on pasture doesn't mean a cattleman can forget about mineral supplements for the summer says a livestock nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

Depending on the type of cattle and quality of forage some minimum requirements may be met naturally, says Al McNeil, a ruminant nutritionist in Edmonton. But, in general, livestock require trace minerals, calcium and phosphorous supplements.

He says the mineral supplement program must run year round. It takes a long time for an animal to build up reserves of minerals such as copper, zinc and selenium in the tissue and to store calcium and phosphorous in their bones.

A shortage of the minerals can lead to a whole range of costly production problems which can't quickly be corrected. McNeil says a consistant year round mineral supplement program is essential.

"The results are hard to see right away," he says. "But a continuous supplement program will improve fertility, increase milk production and increase calf weaning weights."

He says different classes of livestock have different requirements, although a cow with a calf at her side has the greatest need for adequate minerals.

In general terms, it doesn't matter whether its cultivated pasture or native grass, mineral supplementation may be needed. There are differences in plants with legumes, such as alfalfa and clover, probably having a higher concentration of minerals, especially calcium, than grass, but there are no guarantees, says the specialist.

The basis of the supplementation program, for all classes of livestock, should be a trace mineral combination containing copper, zinc and in most cases selenium.

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Mineral supplement is a year-round program (cont'd)

The recommended formulation is loose trace mineral salt that has: 2500 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of copper; 7500 mg/kg zinc; 10 to 25 mg/kg selenium.

McNeil says it is best to determine the level of need for selenium by having the feed analyzed by a lab. Laboratory facilities are available to measure all nutrients in pasture plants. McNeil says it is good to have the test done to help in fine tuning supplement requirements.

For cows with calves at foot, phosphorous, probably the most important mineral, and calcium must also be supplemented.

McNeil says with cattle bred for maximum production nature just can't supply adequate mineral needs through the soil and plants.

"With the level of production demanded from animals now we can no longer assume the pasture will supply the required minerals for various classes of livestock," he says. "And it's a basic principle if we take more out of the animal we have to put more in."

He says high producing cattle, those giving 20 pounds of milk per day or more, need greater supplementation. Low producing cattle, giving about 10 pounds of milk a day, might squeak by on some pastures, but again they should have trace mineral supplements.

As an example, a high producing cow won't naturally get enough calcium on pasture during June, July and August, however as soon as her milk production drops off in the fall, then so does her needs. The low producer might find adequate calcium levels on pasture.

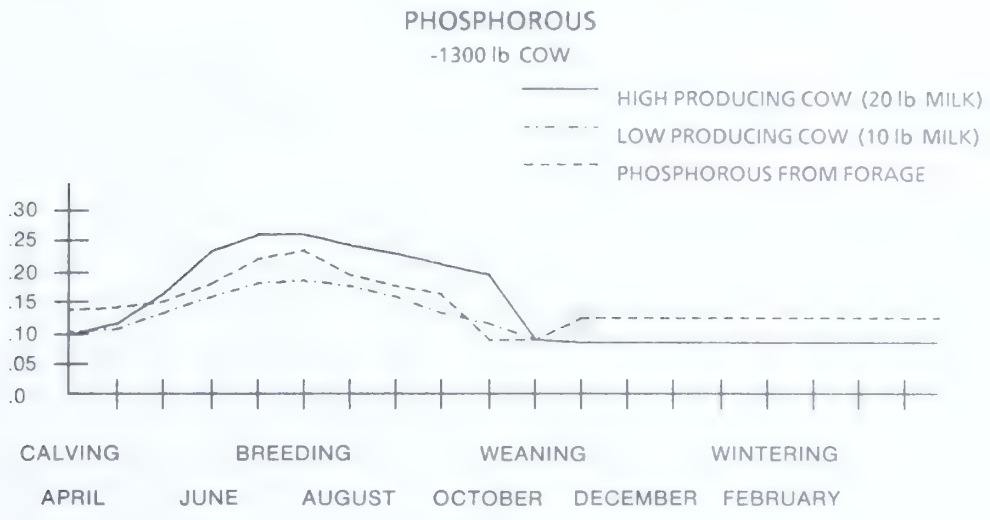
Phosphorous, which is probably the most important for overall herd health and production, is deficient for both high and low producers.

McNeil recommends a 1:1 mineral supplement of calcium and phosphorous mixed half and half with trace mineral salt and provided free-choice. He says the mineral salt mix should be the only salt available to the cattle.

(Cont'd)

Mineral supplement is a year round program (cont'd)

In an ultimate situation, where management allows, McNeil says high producing cows should be supplemented daily with up to three ounces of the 1:1 mineral just leading up to and during the breeding season.



The above graph shows phosphorous requirements for both a high and low producing 1,300 pound cow, and the levels of phosphorous found in typical forage throughout the year. The figures at left indicate the per cent of phosphorous found in forage. The bottom line shows the month and the corresponding production stage of the herd. Figures for the wintering period are based on hay and silage tests. The graph shows during summer the phosphorous requirement often exceeds available phosphorous. The situation is ususally reversed in winter.

Yearlings have different requirements, but still need attention to mineral supplements.

"As a general rule yearlings should always have trace mineral salt available," says McNeil. "In most cases they do not require a calcium supplement. Phosphorous levels in the pasture are probably adequate early in the growing season, but additonal phosphorous should be added to the salt later in the season."

(Cont'd)

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Mineral supplement is a year round program (cont'd)

The nutritionist recommends a 1:1 mineral combined half and half with trace mineral salt and made available free-choice, after pasture quality starts to drop, usually in late August. Again it should be the only salt available to the cattle.

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Contact: Al McNeil
436-9150

June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Leasing machinery an option

With a shortage of cash on hand and a lot of unsold machinery sitting at the local farm dealership lot, leasing may be one option for farmers to consider in meeting their equipment needs.

There is no sure-fire formula which says leasing is the route to go, says an economist with Alberta Agriculture, but tax savings, cash flow, and farm profitability are factors to be considered in making the decision.

Garth Nickorick, with the farm planning section of Alberta Agriculture in Olds, says the current and projected reduced farm cash flows and the manufacturer's large unsold inventory encourage the consideration of leasing needed machinery rather than tying up cash or going into debt in machinery ownership costs.

"Leasing allows the use of new equipment at a much reduced annual cash commitment," says Nickorick. "Year round possession ensures timely control of all operations. New technology can be tested under actual conditions without a long term ownership commitment."

Leasing usually involves a contract from one to five years with fixed payments. A contract is completed with the manufacturing company, with the local dealer acting as agent. The manufacturer estimates the remaining value of the machine at the end of the lease. The difference between retail value and the manufacturer's estimate of remaining value at lease end, plus interest, is divided by the length of lease.

For example, a $50,000 tractor is leased for five years. The value at the end of the lease is estimated to be $20,000. The payment then is $30,000 plus interest, divided by five years.

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At the end of the lease, the machine is returned to the dealer. The dealer then is responsible to sell it. A prudent dealer may encourage the lessor to commit to an option-to-purchase agreement at the end of the lease, says Nickorick.

A buy-out figure may even be quoted before the lease is signed. This option to purchase is a separate contract from the lease contract itself. This option contract is made directly with the dealer. As such it is only as good as the dealer. If the dealer runs into financial problems and goes out of business before the end of the lease the option to purchase may be non-binding, says Nickorick.

The economist replies to some of the most common questions asked about leasing.

Is there a downpayment?

While there is no downpayment with a lease, the payments are in advance of the year of use. The farmers old trade-in may be accepted as a lease payment if desired.

How large are lease payments?

The exact size of the lease payment is based on the manufacturer's estimate of final value. This is based on wear, tear and depreciation. Someone known to be hard on machinery may have a higher lease payment for the same machine. Payment amount is fixed for the length of the lease. A lease payment may be 20 to 80 per cent smaller than a loan payment.

Can the farmer claim CCA and ITC?

No. Since a lease is not ownership, these options are not available. The ITC is to be phased out anyway in 1988.

Are lease payments tax deductible - Yes.

(Cont'd)

Leasing machinery an option (cont'd)

Is a lease for everyone?

This decision should consider the after tax cost of buying or leasing and the farmer's expected cash flow. Farm profitability and tax position will be the guide. For those who have only small tax burdens or cash flows without a residual for loan payments, leasing can offer the opportunity for an improved line of equipment within the farm budget. The lease payment is tax deductible, where as principal payments are not.

How does the farmer investigate a lease contract?

Alberta Agriculture has prepared a publication "Leasing vs. Buying Farm Machinery" (Agdex 825-19). It is available from The Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. It contains an overview of the legal and tax issues that deserve attention.

For additional information, contact Garth Nickorick, farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, 556-4247.

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June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Soil sterilants can present a hazard

Chemicals used to get rid of undesirable plants will also kill plants that are wanted says an environmental expert who has seen the problems people run into using soil sterilants.

Don Lobay, a diagnostician with the herbicides section of Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, says soil sterilants used for domestic or industrial purposes can end up in places where they cause problems.

He says the users should remember some of the sterilants stay in the soil for a year or more.

Arnold Stearman, with the plant industry division of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says he would rather have soil sterilants not used around the home at all.

Stearman, supervisor of communications and special projects, says the department receives at least one call a week from someone with a problem related to soil sterilants.

During the 1985 growing season the herbicide section at the Vegreville centre diagnosed 42 plant and soil samples affected by soil sterilants. Most of the samples were brought in by homeowners who had used soil sterilants for complete vegetation control on driveways, patios and sidewalks.

Other samples related to problems caused by soil sterilants used in industrial areas such as well sites and compressor sites.

"Injury to the non-target plants in the surrounding areas occurred from either runoff water from treated areas or residues in the treated soil," says Lobay. "Those homeowners and industrial users of soil sterilants did not realize that improper and/or careless use of soil sterilants would result in injury or damage to non-target vegetation in the surrounding areas."

(Cont'd)

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Soil sterilants can present a hazard (cont'd)

Most of the samples tested last year were affected by soil sterilants such as Hyvar X, Calmix (bromacil), Karmex (diuron) and Spike (tebuthiuron).

Lobay says soil sterilants are herbicides used for total vegetation control. Most are applied to the soil and are taken up by plant roots. They kill existing plants and can remain active in the soil for a year or more.

Stearman says for home use he would rather see a person use a less potent chemical such as those which act like chemical mowers. There are several brand name products on the market.

"This type of product won't sterilize the soil as such, but it will kill anything above the ground," he says. "Its affects are more short term and a person may have to use it more than once. And they still have to be careful in the application."

Stearman says the stronger soil sterilants cause no end of problems for home use.

Referring to example problems, he says the chemicals can be applied to driveways but if it rains the runoff is carried onto the lawn, killing a large area of grass. Or if someone walks across a wet driveway shortly after it has been sprayed, the chemical is carried on the shoes to the lawn and kills out areas.

"It is really not wise to use these chemicals at all," he says. "They do have certain applications for industrial use, but around home, alternatives should be considered."

He says if someone does have to use the sterilants they should be fully familiar with precautions and the impact that may result.

(Cont'd)

Soil sterilants can present a hazard (cont'd)

Lobay offers the following advice:

- use sterilants only when the objective is to have bare ground and they should not have wide use around the home.
- use the chemical strictly according to directions on the label
- roots of trees and shurbs extend laterally about twice the height of the plant. Leave a safety zone between the areas being treated and nearby trees and shrubs to prevent root uptake.
- do not apply soil sterilants on slopes or areas where runoff water or wind will carry the treated soil into areas where it isn't wanted.
- do not transfer soil treated with a sterilant to an area where desirable plants are growing or may later be planted.

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Arnold Stearman
427-5326

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June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Use the right safety gear with pesticides

Farmers shouldn't forget their own well-being when they launch the attack against this year's outbreak of grasshoppers says a pesticide specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Moe Hussain says the message cannot be repeated often enough warning anyone handling pesticide chemicals to wear protective clothing and gear.

A respirator is usually needed when tank-mixing or spraying these pesticides, he says. Farmers should ask dealers for respirators with a charcoal cartridge specifically designed to absorb pesticides. A dust mask will not work. Disposable pesticide respirators may be used and thrown away at the end of the season.

Hussain says gloves are also required when using pesticides for grasshopper control. Neoprene gloves are best since chemicals will not penetrate the material and they can be washed easily. Synthetic, cloth, leather, or suede gloves are poor choices.

Goggles are also an important safety measure says the specialist. He says use the kind with ventilation ports which help prevent the goggles from fogging. If the eyes are splashed with a pesticide while mixing, wash immediately and call a doctor if redness, blisters or swelling of the eyes occur.

Coveralls should be worn when chemicals are tank mixed or sprayed. They keep more than 90 per cent of the body from being exposed to the pesticides says Hussain.

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Contact: Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Tires may be good for flooring

Along with holding down plastic over silage pits and being used as toys to keep feeder hogs from getting bored, there may be yet another use for those old car tires.

Although it hasn't been tried extensively in Alberta, apparently in Washington State dairy cattle love freestall barns with stall floors covered in old tires.

Dr. Gerald Ollis, extension veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture's animal health division in Edmonton, says he has recommended tire floors to solve a couple of management problems in Alberta, but he hasn't heard if the results are as popular as the Washington report suggests.

"According to Washington State University the cattle were literally 'waiting in line' to step into the freestalls bedded with discarded tires," says Dr. Ollis. "We've had a couple people in Alberta express interest in using the technique, but we'll have to wait for results."

The idea is to put a layer of tires over the dirt floor in the stall and bury them about half way up with clay or sand to hold them in place. Cover with straw and bossy apparently won't sleep anywhere else.

In Washington a dairy researcher happened onto the idea when the university facilities needed upgrading. The tires are the answer for dairymen who complain that with earth flooring in the stalls of these barns the cows are always digging holes in the dirt and dairymen are always filling them.

In the Washington project they tried some comparisons in the remodelling project installing straight concrete floors, concrete with rubber mats, concrete half-blocks on end and buried in dirt, tires embedded in dirt and just plain dirt floors in different stalls, to see which worked the best.

Their stalls were 46 inches wide and 80 inches long with a six-inch curb at the back. The concrete alleys behind the stalls were 100.5 inches wide with a 1.5 per cent slope.

(Cont'd)

Tires may be good for flooring (con't)

"Call the tires a lucky find," says Scott Hodgson of the university. "After three and a half years they are by far the best flooring I've seen."

Bedding retention was good, the cows stayed clean and dry and the animals liked it.

The 13 and 14 inch tires were laid over gravel fill, six to a stall (they should touch), then half buried with damp soil. The top half of the tires was covered with bedding, which could be sawdust, shavings, chopped straw and composted dry manure.

"So far, cows have not only perferred the tire surface, but the tires stay in place, have not been replaced, nor have they required any maintenance work to keep them in place. And there has been no hole digging," says Hodgson.

A couple other tips involved making five or six holes, using a 1.5 inch hole saw on an electric drill, in the bottom of the tires to improve drainage. Also soils with clay work best for packing around the tires or use thoroughly moistened sandy soils. Place the tires at the front of the stall a little higher than those at the rear to make the cow more comfortable (a three to four inch rise, rear to front is about right). And keep the tires at the rear of the stall an inch or two below the top of the curb to aid in maintaining a deep bed.

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June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Alberta chefs prove their talent

Alberta chefs and some of their gourmet creations have captured international praise in Singapore and Japan after putting their culinary talents to the test.

Bill Anderson, Alberta Agriculture's trade director for southeast Asia, says Team Canada, including three Alberta chefs, tied in total points with Team America in the International Culinary Salon held in conjunction with Food and Hotel Asia '86 show in Singapore.

Anderson who has just returned from Southeast Asia says the team also received praise for two special dinners it prepared for Japanese industry and government leaders in Tokyo.

At the competition in Singapore, Anderson says Teams Canada and America were the two to watch.

"These two teams have set a standard of excellence that all other countries strive to achieve," he says. "They are friends, but their rivalry is intense. In Frankfurt in 1984 Canada won the World Championship with America taking second place. In Luxembourg in April 1986 the Americans beat Canada to win the European championships."

Members of Team Canada include three from Alberta: Maurice O'Flynn, team manager and executive director of Alberta Culinary Arts Foundation; Ernst Dorfler, executive chef, Four Seasons Hotel in Edmonton; Manfred Ochs, executive chef of Westin Hotel, Edmonton; Marcel Kretz, team captain, of Hotel La Sapiniere, Val David, Quebec and Yoshi Chubachi from the Manitoba Club in Winnipeg.

After four days of competition Team Canada captured 10 gold medals out of a possible 10. Team American won nine gold and one silver medal. Because of the complex scoring system, both teams achieved a points total of 93.9.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta chefs prove their talent (cont'd)

"A very strong showing was made by the home team, Singapore, followed by Germany and Taiwan," says Anderson. "A second team from Canada, Team Toronto, put up a very impressive display."

In the international student competition division, a team from Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary won first place.

On the way home, Team Canada stopped in Tokyo to present two dinners which were organized by Alberta Agriculture and Travel Alberta and co-ordinated by Alberta Agent General, Ivan Bumstead. Japanese industry and government leaders, along with Alberta and other Canadian businessmen, were among the guests at the dinner.

The menu include salmon terrine with lobster and golden caviar, chicken consomme with quail eggs and vegetable julienne, whole roasted Alberta beef tenderloin coated with honey mustard and peppercorns flambed with whiskey, warm salad of pork marinated in ginger and lettuce, Olympic Maple Fantasia 1988 with cranberry coulis and a Canadian cheese board selection.

"Both dinners were a showcase of Canadian food products presented by Canadian chefs," says Anderson. "Once more we continue to establish the quality of our products in the international marketplace. Without a doubt Canada has maintained its preeminence in the world of international cuisine and Alberta is right at the forefront."

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Contact: Bill Anderson
427-4241

June 16, 1986
For immediate release

Tour planned of canola and cereal crops

Dr. Ieuan Evans, of Alberta Agriculture plant pathology division, will be the guest speaker, June 25 during a tour looking at diseases affecting canola and cereal crops.

Evans will identify local disease problems and discuss control methods on the tour which leaves from the Legal Community Hall north of Edmonton.

The day begins at 10:30 a.m. with a discussion on diseases followed by lunch at the hall. The field tour, which gets underway after lunch, will attempt to identify local diseases such as scald in barley, sclerotina in canola and tan spot in wheat.

The economic threshold for control of some diseases with fungicides will be discussed by Alberta Agriculture staff and chemical companies.

Details on the tour are available from district agriculturists in Morinville at 939-4351 and Westlock 349-4465. They will also be co-ordinating transportation for the day.

Registration deadline is June 18.

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Contact: Bill Chapman
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AGRI-NEWS

JUL 16 1986

June 23, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

$3 million to assist with grasshopper control costs.....1
Livestock can spread verticillium wilt.....3
Don't put off seeing the doctor.....5
Appointments confirmed for farm economists.....6
Top ram auction planned.....8
Brand book authors meet the challenge.....9
Brooks native training in Vegreville.....13
4-H leaders, members to share ideas.....14
New district home economist in Foremost.....15

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June 23, 1986
For immediate release

$3 million to assist with grasshopper control costs

Alberta farmers, bothered by grasshoppers again this year, will be able to recoup 50 per cent of the cost of chemical used to control the pests, through a program announced by Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga.

Similar to the 1985 program, the 1986 Grasshopper Control Assistance Program will make $3 million available this year to farmers in the province, says Elzinga. The program will accommodate producers who have already purchased chemicals this year.

"In 1985, the combination of high egg populations and dry weather conditions resulted in a large grasshopper outbreak," says the minister. "While it is difficult to determine the magnitude of the grasshopper problem this year, some areas of the province are again facing severe grasshopper damage. Therefore, the government is providing financial assistance to producers to ensure effective grasshopper control measures are taken."

Along with the insecticide cost assistance , Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment will co-operatively monitor the grasshopper control program this year. This initiative complements research projects already underway to assess human exposure and any effects of the chemicals on birds and other wildlife.

"We want to be sure that all aspects of grasshopper control are taken into account," says Elzinga. "The infestations have been so severe in some areas that frequent spraying is required. This is a unique situation that requires effective control by farmers to protect their investments, yet requires close monitoring to ensure the effects of such control measures are known."

(Cont'd)

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$3 million to assist with grasshopper control costs (cont'd)

The grasshopper control program was first implemented in 1985 providing $3.2 million in assistance to farmers to offset the cost of chemicals.

Details on the program are available from district agriculturists.

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Contact: Mike Dolinksi
427-5339
Jim Armet
427-2137

June 23, 1986
For immediate release

Livestock can spread verticillium wilt

Livestock feeding on alfalfa hay or forage may play a roll in spreading a plant disease which plays havoc with irrigated alfalfa crops, especially in southern Alberta.

Research carried out by Drs. Henry Huang and Robert Hironaka at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Lethbridge, has shown the manure from animals fed alfalfa, affected by verticillum wilt, still carries the fungus which causes the plant ailment. Either spreading the manure on fields or just the droppings, direct from the animals themselves, can carry the fungus to new areas of the farm.

Dr. Ron Howard, head of laboratory sevices at the Alberta Horticulture Research Center in Brooks, says farmers should be aware that using that manure for fertilizer could just be adding to the problem.

Verticillium wilt is a fungus disease which attacks an alfalfa crop and gradually spreads until it has greatly reduced alfalfa production.

Howard says the disease can show up in spots in a field and eventually work its way through the crop in two to four years. Studies done with sheep shows the droppings can carry the fungus and spreading the fresh manure from the pile further transmits the problem.

The study did show the fungus will not survive in well-composted manure.

Although this study was done with sheep it is believed the fungus will survive passage through other livestock such as cattle and horses.

Howard says the study tells livestock producer three things: 1. They should not pasture livestock on fields known to have or suspected of having verticillium wilt; 2. If cattle are fed infected alfalfa, in a confined feeding set up, the manure should not be used on a forage field that is free of verticillium wilt. 3. If they do use the manure it should be put on land that will not have a forage crop for at least three years. It can be used on a cereal crop or grasslands.

(Cont'd)

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Livestock can spread verticillium wilt (cont'd)

The specialist says the degree of action needed is almost a personal decision. He says some farmers live with a considerable problem of verticillium wilt which greatly affects crop production. Others, finding a light outbreak of the wilt, take drastic measures to make sure it doesn't spread.

Howard offers some basic advice on how to prevent or reduce the problems of verticillium wilt:

- If the farmer is starting out a new field, use pedigree alfalfa seed free of disease or treated for the disease. Plant in a good seed bed that has not had a forage crop for at least three years.

- If verticillium wilt does appear in an area of the field, kill that area with a herbicide such as Round-up and reseed.

- If a farmer has a more serious problem with verticillium wilt, leave those fields to last before harvesting. This avoids spreading the fungus by machinery.

- If hay is being cut by a custom operator make sure any machinery working in infected fields has been cleaned before being used on disease-free fields. This applies to all types of forage equipment from swathers to balers.

- If flood irrigation is being used, do not let water from an infected field run over a disease-free field.

- If a field is badly infected, just plow it down.

"Verticillium wilt is more a chronic disease than an acute disease," says Dr. Howard. "It is sort of a slow, plodding thing that grows and spreads for two or three years before it has a real impact."

He says farmers who have a four year crop rotation routine on alfalfa fields probably practice an unintentional form of wilt control.

Contact: Dr. Ron Howard
362-3391

June 23, 1986
For immediate release

Don't put off seeing the doctor

Anyone feeling the effects of exposure to farm chemicals should see a doctor immediately, says a pesticide specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Moe Hussain, a pesticide toxicologist, says proper use of insecticides and herbicides should prevent any problems, but if an accident does occur don't fool around.

"Some of these chemicals are fairly hazardous and if proper precautions are not taken, many farmers could experience symptoms caused by exposure to them," he says. "Farmers should seek medical attention immediately if this happens."

Exposure may occur from spills and splashes when a farmer is pouring the concentrated pesticide powder or liquid from the container into the sprayer. Or spray drift, while applying the chemical to the field. could get onto the skin or be inhaled. Hussain notes the tractor cab does not provide any protection from exposure to drift.

If a farmer fails to use the recommended respirator, goggles, gloves and coveralls, he is asking for trouble says Hussain. Without the protective gear he may be exposed to sufficient chemical in a day to experience symptoms.

Early signs of exposure to insecticides include headache, dizziness and slight nausea. Later symptoms are blurring of vision, stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting and constricted pupils of the eye. In most cases symptoms do not progress beyond this point.

In technical terms, Hussain says the symptoms are usually brought on because of inhibition of the cholinesterase enzyme in the body.

Most Alberta hospitals have a poison manual in the emergency department for treating insecticide poisoning.

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Contact: Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

June 23, 1986
For immediate release

Appointments confirmed for farm economists

Two familiar faces have been confirmed in their new positions at the Alberta Agriculture farm business management branch in Olds.

Alex Ostapiuk who has served as a farm income tax management specialist will be taking over as a farm management economist, specializing in farm accounting and labor management.

Merle Good, who has been assisting the branch with tax matters since 1979, has been appointed the farm income tax management specialist.

Both appointments were announced by branch head Wilson Loree.

Ostapiuk will provide information on labor management and manual and computerized accounting methods and procedures to meet the ongoing financial and physical record needs of Alberta farmers. The information will be provided through news articles, publications and farm presentations.

Ostapiuk, grew up on a horticulture farm in southern Ontario and is a graduate of the University of Guelph, where he majored in agricultural economics.

He has financial experience from articling with an Alberta chartered accountancy firm and with provincial credit institutions in agricultural lending.

Since late 1984, Ostapiuk has worked with the farm business management branch as a tax management specialist. He replaces George Maicher who has moved to New Brunswick to head that province's farm management branch.

With Ostapiuk moving over, his spot as tax management specialist is being filled by Merle Good. Good will provide farmers with advice on income tax management, estate planning and farm business arrangements.

(Cont'd)

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Appointments confirmed for farm economists (cont'd)

Good is no stranger to the area of farm taxation and estate planning having worked in this area in both a full and part time capacity over the past seven years.

Prior to joining the branch in 1979 he worked as a loans officer with the Alberta Development Corporation in the Red Deer and Lacombe offices.

Along with his professional background in management, Good also has practical experience in farm operation being actively involved with his father in Good's Royal Simmentals farm at Cremona. Born and raised on the farm, he obtained his degree in agricultural economics at the University of Alberta.

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Contact: Alex Ostapiuk
556-4235
Merle Good
556-4237

June 23, 1986
For immediate release

Top ram auction planned

Top rams, representing six major sheep breeds, will be on the auction bloc in Olds later this week for the 12th annual Alberta Ram Test Station Sale.

Only the best of the 200 rams tested through the program will be sold at the June 28 event says John Knapp, Alberta Agriculture provincial sheep specialist in Airdrie and manager of the test station.

Also up for sale will be five top yearling rams from the wool breeds test which have distinguished themselves both in quantity and quality of wool produced and weight gain.

The testing program has been growing since it started in 1975 when 12 producers registered 85 sheep for testing. It established itself even further in 1981 with the creation of a permanent testing facility at Olds College. In 1986, 38 breeders participated in the program with 200 animals registered.

The 200 lamb rams registered this year have been tested over a 56 day period. Based on an index of 100, those that scored below 100 were culled immediately, while those scoring over 100 were put through a further screening to earn a spot in the sales ring.

A veterinarian along with a selection committee looked for any problems with teeth, legs, testicles, heart, wool and possible rales in the lungs to pick out the 60 to 70 premier animals for the sale.

The four to six month old rams, weighing up to 200 pounds, include breeds such as Suffolk, Hampshire, Dorset, Rambouillet, Polypay and Columbia.

The sale gets underway at 1 p.m. at the new sheep barn at Olds College. For details contact John Knapp, at 948-5101.

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Contact: John Knapp
948-5101

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June 23, 1986
For immediate release

Brand book authors meet the challenge

They are probably the only three women in Alberta who know their lazy "J's" from a flying anchor, but after drawing and proofing 52,000 livestock brands they've seen it all.

For artists, Gail Brodersen, Annabelle Mireault and brand recorder Betty Ettinger, at the Alberta Agriculture regulatory services office in Stettler, re-writing the 1986 edition of the Alberta Brand Book has been a job well done.

Just the artwork alone took Brodersen and Mireault 478 man hours, and Ettinger can just about recite names and brand descriptions by heart after proofreading the whole shootin' match.

The book itself will probably never make anyone's best seller list, but the 1,500 to 2,000 volumes sold each printing become the bible for those watching for mis-used brands and trying to identify lost or stolen animals.

The brand book, as unglamorous as it sounds, in its own way documents the history of Alberta. From the North West Mounted Police who first showed up with their livestock to bring law and order to the West, to the turn-of-the-century Ontario farm families who moved to the prairie, to the European immigrants who settled a new country, right to today's agri-businessmen, they all have left a distinctive mark in Alberta brand history.

Anyone in Alberta who wants to identify their cattle or horses with a brand must have that brand registered. And the 1,100-page brand book being published this summer is the most up-to-date official record of those brands.

With new brands being registered and old ones being dropped at the rate of about 200 a month, the book is completely updated every four years.

(Cont'd)

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The word portion of the brand book identifies the name and address of the brand owner and location, on the animal, of the registered brand. In the last few years this information has all been transferred to computer, making changes, additions and deletions simpler, says Ettinger.

The trick comes in creating a picture of the actual symbol or design of the brand to be shown next to the name of the registered owners - all 52,591 of the little sketches.

Brand recorder Betty Ettinger, centre, discusses a design problem with artists Gail Brodersen, left, and Annabelle Mireault as they practise on one of the arbitrary brand designs in the 1986 brand book.

Ettinger, who headed the publishing effort, says she screened the potential candidates looking not only for artistic ability, but for people with the right attitude.

"I needed people who were accurate and neat and had the ability to stay at it," she says.

(Cont'd)

Brand book authors meet the challenge (cont'd)

The offer was made to clerk-steno Gail Brodersen and data control supervisor Annabelle Mireault to take a 33-working-day break from their regular jobs at the brand recorder's office and test their artistic abilities.

Brands registered since 1955 are simpler for artists since they are limited to combinations of numbers and letters or common symbols such as quarter circles, half diamonds, bars, anchors, diamonds, triangles or boxes. For the most part stencils can be used to create these brands although there is still a knack involved, say Brodersen and Mireault.

Using three millimetre high letters and numbers, the brands must be straight, properly spaced, and of course represent the registered brand instructions such as a half diamond, "H" with a lazy "J" which makes .

For Brodersen it was the "Y" that was hardest to master while Mireault dreaded the "W".

"I think whoever designed the alphabet must have worked on brand books," says Brodersen. "Everytime we ran into a bad letter that was hard to get right, it was followed by an easy one that helped keep us going."

The real test of their ability were the dozens of arbitrary brands registered before 1955 and still renewed by their owners.

If these brands expire they cannot be reactivated and since 1955 no new ones have been allowed.

No stencil could be used to create these personalized brands, many of which hold some significance to the owner and the history of the ranch.

Among the arbitrary symbols are cotter keys or hairpins, hearts, rocking chairs, hats, horseheads, sunrises, pistols, boots, cloverleaves, anchors, bells, birds, swastikas and lightning bolts. And a brand could include one or more of these symbols, straight or reversed, or lazy, or a symbol and number or letter combination.

(Cont'd)

Brand book authors meet the challenge (cont'd)

"Sometimes we just had to stop and think how this brand was intended," says Mireault. "The person who created the brand is very fussy on how he wants it to look and our interpretation must be as accurate as possible."

Drawing about 1,000 brands a day, the artists say they ran into few set backs, although they feel they may have had some highly placed assistance.

"We had been at this for some weeks and had all our material spread out on the desks and all the completed work in a pile," says Mireault. "We came to work one morning and found that a water pipe in the ceiling had broken and there was water on every desk in the office except these two we were working on."

"I think we must have been living right that day," adds Brodersen. "It was a miracle none of this work was ruined."

With the artwork completed, the book proofread, the material is ready for the final printing and binding and should be ready for distribution later this summer, says Ettinger.

Brodersen and Mireault have, with some regret, returned to their regular duties, but both say they are keeping their applications ready for the 1990 edition.

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Contact: Betty Ettinger
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June 23, 1986
For immediate release

Brooks native training in Vegreville

A Brooks native, who has just graduated from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, will be learning the ropes as a district home economist in Vegreville.

Pamela Brandt, who graduated earlier this month with a bachelor of science degree in home economics, has joined the Alberta Agriculture office in Vegreville as a district home economist in training, says Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch in Edmonton.

During the summer school break in 1985 Brandt worked as a volunteeer with Elvira Smid, the district home economist in Brooks. Prior to that she worked as shift supervisor at the Brooks community pool during the summer, providing lessons and developing programs along with life guard duties.

In her role in Vegreville, Brandt, who majored in family studies at university, says she will be there as a resource person for the community, helping to answer questions and problems, while at the same time gaining experience.

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Contact: Pamela Brandt
632-5400

June 23, 1986
For immediate release

4-H leaders, members to share ideas

More than 100 Alberta 4-H members and leaders are expected in Olds in August to share ideas on how get the most out of this year's 4-H programs.

The focus of the two day Expressions conference is "keys to a successful 4-H club year".

Although the original registration deadline is passed, Penny Wilkes with the 4-H branch in Edmonton, says late applications will still be accepted.

Running August 6 - 8 the idea of the conference is to allow 4-H members and leaders an opportunity to share ideas on how to make programs more interesting and meaningful.

Select-a-session workshops cover a wide range of topics from money management and basic first aid, to shisha embroidery, gardening and woodworking.

Planned recreation activities include everything from a 4-H treasure hunt to a food bowl competition.

"4-H Expressions offers more than just recreation and learning," says Judy Shipley Smith, district home economist in Morinville, who is also a conference organizer. "There's teamwork and fellowship to be found in the popular fashion show, hard times dance and the club dress-up supper.

"The fun, fellowship and learning of Expressions continues long after the conference is over."

For registration or details on the conference contact Penny Wilkes at 427-2541 or Judy Shipley Smith at 939-4351.

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Contact: Penny Wilkes
427-2541
Judy Shipley Smith
939-4351

June 23, 1986
For immediate release

New district home economist in Foremost

Brenda Lea Rumohr has been appointed the new district home economist in Foremost taking over duties from Adrianna Ball who resigned earlier this year.

Born in Calgary and raised on a acreage near Chestermere Lake, Rumohr is a graduate of both Olds College and the University of Alberta.

Her appointment was announced by Shirley Myers head of the Alberta Agriculture home economics branch in Edmonton.

Rumohr graduated from the U of A this year with a bachelor of science degree in home economics, majoring in clothing and textiles. In 1980 she earned a diploma from Olds in fashion merchandising.

In her new position, the district home economist will provide a wide range of information to the public including such areas as farm financial management, 4-H, food preservation, nutrition and consumer information.

Prior to this full time assignment, Rumohr worked as a regional 4-H assistant in Airdrie during the summers of 1982, 1983 and 1984. She has also worked as a summer district home economist.

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Contact: Brenda Lea Rumohr
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AGRI-NEWS

June 30, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Loree earns national honor.....1

Weather and crop conditions generally improved over 1985.....2

Little change in pasture rental rates.....5

Farm home tour shows style.....7

Cropland rental rates drop.....9

Respirators should be part of the gear.....12

Ranch Day planned at Kinsella.....13

Minimum tillage may have a price.....15

Special auction planned at Stampede.....18

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June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Loree earns national honor

The head of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds has won a national award, recognizing his contribution and leadership in furthering the concepts of good farm business practices.

J. Wilson Loree, will be honored July 8, at a dinner in Saskatoon as he receives the Farm Business Management Award from the Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Society.

The award "encourages and recognizes excellence in extension, research and teaching of farm business management concepts and practice in Canada," says Mel Cameron, director of Alberta Agriculture economic services division in Edmonton, in making the announcement.

"It wasn't just me, it's all the good things everyone has done together as a branch," says Loree, about the award. "It's an award for all the people who have worked for the branch in the past as well as the present. This award is for each and everyone of them."

Loree has been involved in farm management teaching and extension for the past 17 years. He will be bringing the award back to Alberta after it went to Marcel Couture of Macdonald College of McGill University in Montreal in 1985. In 1984 it was presented to Dr. T.A. Petersen of the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

"He (Loree) has consistently shown imagination and leadership to develop the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture into a progressive and innovative organization," says the nomination brief collectively prepared by the Olds staff. The branch "has pioneered many of the farm business management programs that are now widely accepted by similar organizations in Canada and even abroad."

Loree, along with his wife Carol, and staff members Harry Warne and Craig Edwards will be part of the delegation in Saskatoon to receive the honor.

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Contact: Wilson Loree
556-4213

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June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Weather and crop conditions generally improved over 1985

Although there are wide variations throughout the province, weather and growing conditions for crops are generally better than last year according to information available to Alberta Agriculture.

Both a department weather technologist and a crop statistician say there are areas of drought and too much rain across Alberta, but overall, according to mid-month information, it is a better year than 1985.

The greatest improvement is in the southern half of the province which was considered a drought area in 1985.

Most of central and southern Alberta had scattered showers earlier in the month which has kept soil moisture at adequate levels for the most part, reports Dena Lewis, weather resource technologist with the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. However, dry conditions are still causing concern in a north-south strip through central Alberta. The affected area extends from Hanna in the south, north through Lamont, east to Lloydminster and Bonnyville and up into the Athabasca and Westlock areas.

There have been a few isolated storms throughout the province this month, with high winds and torrential downpours, causing wind and water erosion. Lewis says two inches or more of rain were reported in storms that hit near Three Hills, Dewberry and Grassy Lake.

"The Peace River region has dry conditions and a general rain is needed in most districts," she says.

Frost was reported over most of the Peace region during the second week of June with the temperature dropping to -4°C around Fairview and Fort Vermilion. Fort Vermilion appears to have sustained the most crop damage with 70 to 80 per cent of farms affected, while in other areas it was confined to low spots and gardens.

(cont'd)

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Weather and crop conditions generally improved over 1985 (cont'd)

Unofficial precipitation figures from Environment Canada show April to mid-June moisture ranging from well-above to well-below normal, depending on the area. Lewis says some of the high percentages may be inflated by the surprise blizzard which dumped a lot of moisture around the province in May.

Looking at some of the areas, Foremost, for example, in the south east corner is 16 per cent above normal with 126.7 mm of precipitation recorded. Medicine Hat is 25 per cent above normal with 125.4 mm. Brooks, on the other hand, is about 22 per cent below normal with 74.3 mm of percipitation.

Lethbridge is 17 per cent below normal with 106.5 mm, Pincher Creek is 7 per cent below normal with 159.4 mm and Claresholm is 18 per cent below normal with 97.9 mm.

The Calgary area is 25 per cent below normal with 92.2 mm, Olds is only 4 per cent below normal with 125.8, Stettler and Red Deer are both 10 per cent above normal with 104.4 mm and 140.3 mm, respectively, while Rocky Mountain House is 21 per cent below normal with 109.5 mm.

Vegreville is 9 per cent above normal with 85.9 mm of precipitation since April, while Coronation is 16 per cent below normal with 72 mm. Lloydminster is 7 per cent below normal with 88.4 mm, Fort McMurray is 42 per cent below normal with 67.4 mm, Grande Prairie is 2 per cent above normal with 88.4 mm and Peace River is 2 per cent below normal with 67.2 mm.

Crop conditions around the province again show a generally good pattern, although some areas are suffering, due to a lack of moisture.

Keir Packer, crop statistician with statistics branch, reports by mid-month the southern region is in good condition, although the grasshoppers are on the move and forced some reseeding in the Cardston, Claresholm and Pincher Creek areas.

(Cont'd)

Weather and crop conditions generally improved over 1985 (cont'd)

In the south central region, again the hoppers forced some reseeding around Calgary, Hanna and Oyen. Growing conditions are generally excellent, although drier conditions around Hanna, Craigmyle and Delia slowed pasture growth and allowed some wind erosion.

In the north central region crops are generally reported good. Drier conditions around Coronation and Veteran are contributing to poor pasture conditions and grasshopper problems are reported in the eastern areas.

The north east region had some rain earlier in the month allowing for generally good crop conditions, but moisture levels are dropping and pastures around Bonnyville, Lamont, Two Hills and Smoky Lake are declining. Grasshoppers are a problem around Provost, while tent caterpillars have contributed to the death of half the mature poplars in the Vermilion area.

In the north west region it is hoped showers will improve the germination of late seeded crops. Moisture conditions are generally good, Packer reports, dropping to fair around Westlock and Athabasca.

Few showers in the Peace River region have done little to improve fair to poor surface moisture conditions. Crops and pastures both need rain. Frost hit around Fort Vermilion and flea beetles are appearing on untreated canola.

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Contact: Dena Lewis
422-4385
Keir Packer
427-4020

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Little change in pasture rental rates

There is very little change in pasture rental rates in Alberta according to a 1986 survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture.

The survey released by Garth Nickorick, of the farm business management branch in Olds, indicates pasture rental for 1986 is largely unchanged from 1985 rates. This survey was conducted in April as part of an ongoing project to provide information to landowners and tenants on current rates for pasture in particular areas.

Market prices show rentals in the short grass prairie area of southern Alberta being $2.50 - $5 per acre. Around Calgary, prices generally range from $10 - $20 per acre.

On the animal unit month (AUM) basis, southern prairie rates range from $6 - $12 per AUM, while the area around Calgary is $10 - $15 per AUM.

"This average of $10 per animal unit month is not uncommon throughout the whole province," says Nickorick.

CASH RENT - PASTURE

Location	Most Common - 1985	Most Common - 1986
Region 1	$10.00-$18.00/AUM $12.00/ac	$6.00-$12.00/AUM $3.33-$9.38 /ac
Region 2	$10.00-$15.00/AUM $10.00-$15.60/ac	$10.00-$15.00/AUM $11.00-$20.00/ac
Region 3	$6.00-$12.00/AUM $15.00-$30.00/ac	$10.00-$12.00/AUM $8.00-$18.00/ac
Region 4	$6.00-$10.00/AUM	$5.00-$14.00/AUM $6.00-$9.00/ac
Region 5	$1.00-$4.00/AUM $10.00-$15.00/ac	$7.00-$10.00/AUM $7.00-$12.00/ac
Region 6	- -	$6.25-$8.23/AUM $3.38-$14.00/ac

Surveyed April 1986 - Total Reports 85

(Cont'd)

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Little change in pasture rental rates (cont'd)

The survey indicates 68 per cent of leasing agreements from individuals are made for a term of one year or less. The last two years have shown a swing toward one year agreements. The longer term leasing agreements seem to be falling out of favor with owners and tenants.

"Often cattlemen are left in a predicament that regardless of the economic conditions faced, to maintain animals in the herd, summer pasture has to be found," says Nickorick. "The only other option is to sell off cows. While there has been a sell down in the last few years, many producers have been reluctant to go this route. This has helped to maintain grass prices a little bit higher than would have been expected."

For further information or a copy of the survey on pasture rental rates for cattle, horses, sheep on private land, provincial grazing leases and crown land contact Garth Nickorick at the farm business management branch in Olds, (403) 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Farm home tour shows style

Rural women will be able to see what other farm homemakers have done with their houses during the homes tour section of Alberta Women's Week in Olds in July.

While all events planned by conference organizers are expected to be of interest to women, the first-ever farm home tours should be both informative and entertaining says Alberta Agriculture housing specialist, Donna Bagdan.

The four separate home tours will be offered over three days of the July 21 to 24, 56th annual conference. They will be part of the select-a-session program. Anyone not interested in the tours can participate in a variety of other events ranging from food drying, to hints on keeping the yard looking good and how to deal with stress.

The main part of the conference involves a talk by Denver business woman Jean Yancey, a panel discussion on free trade and a talk on developing a good mental attitude by Wally Evdokimoff of Lethbridge Community College.

"We don't want women to think it is going to be all serious topics," says Bagdan. "The home tours are just one of the events dealing with relevant, but lighter, issues."

Each of the four tours is expected to look at two to three different farm houses in the Olds area noting good design ideas that can be applied to new or older homes.

Features being noted include a look at what people have done with farm home entrances, making them larger, providing more storage, incorporating a wash up and laundry area near the entry and perhaps an office area just off the entry.

(Cont'd)

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Farm home tour shows style (cont'd)

Bagdan says the farm office is becoming a more dominant feature on the main floor of the house, with either a bedroom being converted into an office, or an addition being built to provide office space near the main entry.

The tour will also look at the different uses made of the farm kitchen and how designs suit those uses. Bagdan says the kitchen isn't always just for the farm wife cooking for the family. It often becomes a canning and freezing centre, a cooking area for hired help, for company, or for catering to community events. It's the best place for children to learn to cook and sometimes a disabled person or elderly people are using the facilities. Along with everyday eating it can be a menu-planning centre and a communications centre, with a telephone and desk.

"In many regards the farm kitchen is more than just a kitchen," she says. "And there are some pretty good examples of how to best meet those needs."

Also for those planning to build, the tour will look at location of the farm home - how to pick the best site. For either new builders or those considering renovations, landscaping will be discussed, along with examples of the new vertical style farm home window instead of traditional ranch style.

Bagdan has arranged bus transportation for the tours and long-time Olds history buff, Helen Smith, will provide a narration on history and highlights of the Olds area.

There is still time to register for the conference and pre-registration for the home tours is also required. For details on the conference contact Karen Goad, registration chairman in Innisfail at 227-6565 or any district home economist.

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Contact: Donna Bagdan
427-2181

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Cropland rental rates drop

A reduction in farm incomes is reflecting in a corresponding drop in rental rates for cropland in Alberta according to a survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture.

Rental rates for cropland in 1986 have decreased from last year's levels, say the survey results recently released by Garth Nickorick of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Rents have dropped $1 - $5 per acre throughout the province reflecting the reduced farm incomes of 1985 and the expected lower earnings for 1986, says Nickorick.

The survey is conducted each spring to assist landowners and tenants in leasing decisions. This year more than 400 landowners, involving 147,000 acres, were contacted.

The rental range for irrigated land was $33 - $90 per acre with an average of $63 per acre.

Dryland rates in the area south of the Trans Canada Highway averaged $25 per acre within a $12 - $30 per acre range. Rental rates in the Olds/Red Deer, Wetaskiwin/Coronation areas commonly range from $28 - $34 per acre with top land bringing $45 - $50 an acre.

The Wainwright/Vermilion/Two Hills area ranges from $20 - $35 per acre with the average being $27 per acre.

Rents in the Edmonton/Redwater/Barrhead area averaged $22 per acre in a range of $18 - $25 per acre.

Peace River/Grande Prairie area rentals range from $15 - $20 per acre with the most common being $18 per acre.

(Cont'd)

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Cropland rental rates drop (con't)

TABLE 1

Region	1985	1986	1986 Average
1 irrigated	$60-$90/acre	$53-$80/acre	$63/acre
1 dryland	$12-30/acre	$12-$30/acre	$24/acre
2	$25-$45/acre	$25-$45/acre	$34/acre
3	$25-$40/acre	$25-$35/acre	$28/acre
4	$24-37/acre	$20-$35/acre	$27/acre
5	$8-$37/acre	$18-$25/acre	$22/acre
6	$8-$25/acre	$15-$20/acre	$18/acre

The most popular agreement continues to be the cash rental, says Nickorick. About 53 per cent of all lease agreements signed in Alberta are based on cash agreements. However, the number of cash agreements dropped 2 per cent from 1985 levels, while cropshare agreements increased everywhere except in the Peace River/Grande Prairie area. This is the second year in a row this area has seen a large increase in cash rental agreements. The Edmonton/Redwater/Barrhead area has seen a large switch to crop share from cash rentals.

As many of the three to five year agreements expired and new agreements were signed, the length of the leases has shortened, he says. Forty-five per cent of cropshare agreements are now for a one year term - an increase of 23 per cent from 1985. One year cash rentals increased 8 per cent from 1985 levels.

Leases of five years or longer are being used less often, according to the survey, while three year agreements are still popular.

TABLE 2

Years	Cash	Cropshare
1	41% +8	45% +23
2	8% +5	3% +0
3	23% -3	30% +3
4	5% +2	2% +1
5	15% -2	12% -5
5+	8% -3	8% -12

(Cont'd)

Cropland rental rates drop (Cont'd)

"It appears that landowners have had to respond to a depressed farm economy by accepting reduced rental rates," says Nickorick. "However they are expecting things to turn around. The highest rents are being paid in County 17 and County 23 with a $45 - $50 per acre rental not uncommon. Rental rates, however, within a county are subject to local economic conditions, land quality, land condition and risk conditions."

For additional information or a copy of the survey on cropland rental, contact Garth Nickorick, farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, (403) 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Respirators should be part of the gear

To some extent it's defeating the purpose to protect the skin with coveralls and gloves, but allow pesticide fumes to get into the lungs because a respirator isn't worn, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Moe Hussain, a pesticide expert, says a respirator should be a basic part of the gear for anyone handling those insecticides used for grasshopper control.

Hussain says the goggles and coveralls are essential, but the fumes and mist from mixing and applying the chemicals can make the farmer ill when inhaled.

There are different kinds of respirators, with different color-coded filters, on the market. However, Hussain says be sure and ask for the filter specifically designed for pesticide use. Avoid dust masks and respirators with felt filters; they do not reduce pesticide exposure.

There are two designs of respirators, each with equal efficiency in reducing exposure, says Hussain. One type has two filters while the other has only one. The main difference is that the double filter lasts longer between filter changes and the filters can be removed and replaced as needed. With the single unit the whole respirator is thrown out when the filter is used up.

"Along with the respirator, goggles should be used especially during tank mixing and coveralls should be worn at all times when working with pesticides," says Hussain.

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Contact: Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Ranch Day planned at Kinsella

Anyone involved in raising beef should be able to glean advice from the latest research involving beef cattle presented during Ranch Day, July 25, at the University of Alberta research ranch at Kinsella.

The open-house type event, which is sponsored every two to three years by the department of animal science of the U of A, will again feature information sessions on everything from brush control to calving problems and beef crossbreeding.

Dr. Bob Hardin, chairman of the animal science department, says the day will provide plenty of practical information for beef ranchers. The sessions will also be of interest to government and industry experts involved in the beef industry.

Speakers on the agenda include Frank Novak, of the U of A department of rural economy, discussing the cost of brush control on pasture land. Steve Acres, director of VIDO (Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization) in Saskatoon will discuss calf scour research at Kinsella, while Bob Christopherson, a professor in animal physiology, will talk about the influence of stress on cattle.

A specialist in ruminant nutrition, Gary Mathison, will review new ways in feeding beef cattle, while Dr. Roy Berg, of the department of animal science, will talk about the future of crossbreeding.

Mick Price, a professor in animal growth and development will look at the new Canada B1 beef grade and discuss opportunities for producers. Calving difficulty in beef cattle will be reviewed by Mahmoud Makarechian, a professor of animal genetics and breeding.

Art Bailey, of the plant science department with the university, will give his views on why so many mature poplar trees in the province have died this year.

(Cont'd)

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Ranch Day planned at Kinsella (cont'd)

Hardin says following the talks there will be a tour of the ranch. The popular feeder day report which looks at applied research will also be available to Ranch Day participants.

The day gets underway at 10 a.m. with a wrap up barbecue at 5 p.m. The ranch is located near the community of Kinsella, south east of Edmonton on Highway 14.

For further details on the day contact the U of A department of animal science at 432-2343 or Kinsella Ranch at 336-2328.

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Contact: Dr. Bob Hardin
432-3235

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Minimum tillage may have a price

While soil conservationists have long promoted minimum tillage as the best way to keep soil from blowing away, the practice may have a negative side affect on the crop says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Dr. Ron Howard, head of the laboratory services section at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says studies have shown that minimum tillage techniques may serve to increase crop disease problems.

Howard says the disease risk probably isn't big enough to overshadow the value of minimum tillage, but he says it is a factor of which farmers should be aware.

"In areas of Alberta where there is a high risk of soil erosion by wind, soil conservation still takes priority," he says. " Usually we don't have a situation where we will lose a whole crop to disease. But we do have examples of where erosion has drastically reduced yield capability."

Howard was commenting on a recent presentation by Dr. A. Tekauz of the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Winnipeg. Speaking at a crop protection seminar in Lethbridge, Tekauz warned that stubble and straw left on the field can become the breeding ground for some diseases. He says the risk is compounded if the same crop is grown year after year.

In his paper, Tekauz noted four things need to happen in order for a plant disease to exist. The disease causing agent, or pathogen must be present; a susceptible host must be grown; environment conditions must be suitable for infection and disease development and no control measures, such as using fungicides, are employed.

Tekauz says if one of these condtions is removed, the disease cannot exist.

"By altering one or more of the factors necessary for disease, we can reduce the levels of disease severity," he says. "By eliminating any one factor completely, we can prevent disease."

(Cont'd)

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Minimum tillage may have a price (cont'd)

It was noted that minimum or zero tillage didn't appear to have any influence on some diseases. Rusts, for example, are usually airborne and are transmitted to crops by wind. Likewise, smuts are already on the seed when planted, so the degree of tillage would not be a factor.

However, a disease like common root rot in seedlings can be worsened if minimum tillage and repetitive cropping is practiced. Tekauz says reduced tillage can result in an increase in the incidence and severity of several diseases.

On the other end of the scale, he also notes that reduced tillage may help prevent some diseases. In an Idaho study it was determined that the trash on the ground prevented some disease organisms from reaching the lower parts of young plants.

"Clearly, additional research needs to be done in Canada and elsewhere, to better document the potential effects of reduced tillage practices on crop diseases and crop yields," says Tekauz. "Such effects will vary from region to region, crop to crop and the disease in question.

"Theoretically, one would expect leaf and root diseases to increase in severity in the Canadian prairies under minimum tillage management."

Dr. Howard says on irrigated soils which produce a lot of trash, minimum tillage may not be feasible because the build up of straw would be too great. He says the minimum tillage technique of soil and moisture conservation is usually applied on land used for dryland cereal crop production.

The bottom line for farmers, according to Howard, is just to be aware minimum tillage may have some negative aspects. He says it is more important to keep the soil from eroding.

Howard says a farmer should select seeds that have been treated for disease and be prepared in case a fungicide application is needed as the crop develops.

(Cont'd)

Minimum tillage may have a price (cont'd)

He also suggests rotating the crops on a field every couple years helps to discourage the build up of disease organisms. Switching from cereal crops to oil seeds or forage can reduce the risks.

It was noted the disease factor also presents a challenge to researchers to develop crop varieties with greater resistance to leaf and root diseases. It also means more research is needed on the effective use of fungicides and greater emphasis may be needed to develop ways of forecasting disease occurence and severity.

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Contact: Dr. Ron Howard
362-3391

June 30, 1986
For immediate release

Special auction planned at Stampede

The oldest cattle brands in the province will make an appearance at the Calgary Stampede in July helping the Calgary Exhibition Association mark its 100th anniversary.

Cattle carrying brands that are all at least 100 years old, including the oldest recorded brand, owned by Alberta Agriculture, will be auctioned off as part of the celebration.

Owners of 31 of the 100-year-old brands have agreed to supply a branded steer for the sale which is being held in conjunction with the Canadian Livestock Auctioneer Championship. The top five finalists in the championship will actually conduct the sale of the centennial branded cattle. The top Canadian auctioneer will be selected from this sale.

The centennial brands sale is being organized by a committee headed by Ken Hurlburt, president of Fort Macleod Auction Mart.

"I thought it would be a good idea to have a sale of cattle with all these old brands, to help mark this anniversary, so they put me in charge of it," says Hurlburt. "We have had really tremendous response from ranchers who own these old brands."

Brand registry was introduced in Alberta in 1878. While many of the brands have been dropped, several have been on the go continuously since the Calgary exhibition association sponsored the first "Roundup" in 1886. The celebration later became the Calgary Stampede.

Alberta Agriculture owns the oldest active brand, the '71' left rib brand, first registered in Fort Macleod to the North West Mounted Police, explains Ken Spiller of Edmonton, head of regulatory services, which oversees brand registration.

"Although the '71' is no longer used, we keep it renewed," he says. "We felt this 100 anniversary was a worthwhile project so we will have a steer in the sale."

(Cont'd)

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Bob Dyck, left, general manager of Fort Macleod Auction Mart and Ken Hurlburt, president of the company hold the "71" branding irons representing the oldest recorded brand in the province, owned by Alberta Agriculture.

(Cont'd)

Special auction planned at Stampede (cont'd)

Cattle from Lloydminster to Fort Macleod will be part of the July 13 auction. Some of the older ranch families and names participating include Alec Mitchell with the CY brand; the Cross family west of Nanton with A7 brand, the Chattaway ranch, near Nanton, with bar "S", Allan Baker with bar "U", Frank and Hugh Lynch-Staunton with the "41" brand and Wallace and Mark Daley of Granum with the milking stool brand.

Working with Hurlburt on the auction is business partner Bob Dyck who is general manager of the company. Dyck is also chairman of the auctioneer championship which is expected to draw competitors from across the country. The 1984 champion, Brandt Hurlburt will act as master of ceremonies for the championship, while 1985 champion Keith Dinwoodie of Armstrong, B.C. will be on hand as well. The competition begins July 12 and wraps up with the auction July 13.

There will be photo sessions with the brand owners and cattle involved in the auction and each owner will receive a miniature calf skin engraved with the 100th anniversary of the association, the brand and their name.

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Contact: Ken Hurlburt
553-3315
Ken Spiller
427-5098

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AGRI-NEWS

July 7, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Spraying isn't the only answer.....1

Study measures effect of chemical.....3

A rose by any name is an Alberta Better Buy.....6

Seven Alberta companies share $718,162.....8

Bankers head back to school.....10

Goat industry covers Alberta.....12

The mystery of amortized loans.....17

Check Canola for stem rot problems.....21

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July 7, 1986
For immediate release

Spraying isn't the only answer

Reaction by home-owners to insects appearing in yards and gardens requires a reasonable approach to control, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Betty Vladicka, says a shotgun approach to pest control could cause more damage than the insect itself.

"Just because someone sees a few bugs or caterpillars doesn't mean the gardener needs to rush out and spray everything," says Vladicka, a horticulturist with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, east of Edmonton. "Sometimes spraying isn't needed at all."

Not all insects cause damage, she says, noting it is important to have the insect identified. The gardener can consult a district agriculturist or a horticulturist for assistance.

Once the insect has been identified, the most effective method of control can be determined.

"It's possible that spraying will not be affective for several reasons," says Vladicka. "The insect may be entering a stage of its life cycle that is not susceptible to chemicals or the insect may be protected from the spray by the plant, as is the case with leaf rollers.

"Spraying isn't the only solution. For example, if there are only a few pests around, they can be picked off by hand".

If a person must spray, it is important to use the appropriate insecticide and follow instructions on the label.

"Often the attempts to manage an insect problem fail because the home-owner is using the wrong chemical, spraying at the wrong time, or using an insecticide that is no longer effective because of age," she says. "It's wise to note the date of purchase on the container and always store it properly."

(Cont'd)

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Spraying isn't the only answer (cont'd)

Vladicka stresses the gardener should read the entire label, each time he uses the chemical.

Further information on pest control can be found in Alberta Agriculture's publication "Backyard Pest Management" available from district agriculture offices or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. #6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

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Contact: Betty Vladicka
973-3351

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

Study measures effect of chemical

A provincial study conducted by Alberta Agriculture is trying to determine how much exposure to a common insecticide is required before a farmer starts feeling symptoms of illness.

Done in conjunction with the University of Calgary, the study is monitoring 10 Alberta farmers as they make normal use of the chemical Furadan which controls grasshoppers.

According to project leader, Dr. Moe Hussain, a pesticide specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, the study will determine how much exposure a farmer can tolerate before he starts experiencing symptoms.

"We know what effects the chemical can have on an individual," says Hussain. "But we don't know what length of exposure, through normal use, will cause these effects and symptoms.

"The findings of this study should allow us to say, for example, if a farmer sprays for a certain number of hours he is going to have symptoms. But if he sprays for one hour less, then takes a few hours break before going back at it, he won't have symptoms."

Early signs of exposure to insecticides include headache, dizziness and slight nausea. Later symptoms are blurring of vision, stomach cramps, diarrhea and constricted pupils of the eye.

After they were interviewed and selected for the project, each farmer was given a pre-study medical to determine general health condition long before grasshopper spraying started.

Once the spraying program gets underway each farmer is monitored in two ways. First, the study measures dermal exposure to see how much chemical actually comes in contact with skin. Secondly, it measures inhalation to see how much of the fumes and mist are breathed into the lungs.

(Cont'd)

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Study measures effect of chemical (cont'd)

In the skin tests, researchers apply gauze patches at strategic locations on the farmer's skin and then have him dress normally, with his work clothes, plus coveralls and other gear recommended for protection when using chemicals. Gauze patches are also applied on top of the coveralls.

These patches will provide researchers with a comparison of how much exposure the farmer receives on the surface of his clothes and how much chemical actually gets through the coveralls and clothing to his skin.

To measure exposure through breathing, a small suction pump and tube is attached to the farmer's shirt collar. The tube draws in air from around the breathing zone. Insecticide mist and fumes are trapped in the suction device.

Before each farmer begins work with the chemical he will provide blood and urine specimens.

"Once all this is done the farmers will then go ahead and mix the chemical and spray as they normally would, whether it is for two, four, six hours or whatever," says Hussain. "After they have completed their spraying we collect the gauze patches and suction filters and determine how much exposure they had to the chemical. Any symptoms experienced by the farmers are noted."

Blood and urine samples are taken immediately after spraying has been completed, and again after one, two, three and four days to determine how long the chemical may remain in the body.

A portion of the study has already been completed, but three more farmers have yet to be monitored.

"What we want to determine is the relationship between spraying time, chemical exposure and symptoms experienced," says Hussain.

"With this information we can then advise a farmer, or anyone using the chemical when to stop spraying before symptoms are felt. At least we can provide the warning of when to quit."

(Cont'd)

Study measures effect of chemical (cont'd)

The pesticide specialist says although this study is being done with Furadan, the results can generally be applied to use of other farm chemicals.

This type of study is not aimed at providing answers to the effects of long term use of chemicals, but it will help prevent the short term exposure problems, says Hussain.

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Contact: Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

A rose by any name is an Alberta Better Buy

More than 30 Alberta Agriculture district home economists will be showing up at supermarkets, exhibitions, tradefairs and other public events this year promoting the idea among consumers it is smart to buy Alberta products.

It's the second year of a three-year project involving the department and food processors in selling the buy Alberta products message.

Cathy Edge, Alberta Agriculture's provincial food specialist in Edmonton is coordinator of the Rural Agricultural Products Promotion (RAPP) program. The project is funded and operated jointly by the department and the Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA).

AFPA is a 127-member organization with food processor members across the province. Working with AFPA on promotion schemes are Alberta Agriculture professionals such as Edge and district home economists in the field services sector and the department's marketing sector.

"The idea is to raise public awareness of what Alberta products there are in food stores and encourage people to buy home-province products," says Edge.

It is the same concept as the federal government promotion a few years ago which encouraged everyone to buy Canadian products and made the maple leaf an identifying symbol of Canadian goods.

The RAPP program focusses consumer attention on Alberta goods ranging from peas to poultry and bread sticks to beef. An aim of the project is to make the wild rose a standard design on food packaging identifying an Alberta product.

(Cont'd)

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A rose by any name is an Alberta Better Buy (cont'd)

The logo which identifies the efforts of the RAPP project is the "A better buy Alberta product" message next to a wild rose. The logo is seen on stickers, shelf labels, balloons, buttons and banners and is part of a TV advertising campaign with themes such as a young couple buying Alberta products at the grocery store.

Further to that effort, the district home economists are taking turns at promotions in their districts to encourage use of Alberta food products.

With 14 displays in 1985, Edge says 32 different promotions have been approved this year. Each home economist submits a proposal and each approved proposal has a budget of up to $3,500 to develop the display.

The promotion must meet three basic guidelines - it has to have the support of the retailer, it must involve an in-store food promotion and it must be advertised through the media.

The approach used by the home economist could involve a booth in a grocery store, displaying banners and other "Better buy Alberta product" material, along with food taste samples. Often there is a draw for a food hamper involved.

Another approach could be to put up banners in the grocery store, and set up the display booth at the local exhibition or trade fair, again encouraging consumers to buy Alberta products at the local store.

"We're letting people know the quality of Alberta products can compare with other national brands," says Edge. "Often food products made here are less expensive because such things as transportation and advertising costs (which affect product prices) are lower. The promotion also appeals to provincial-loyalty, encouraging people to support local industry and producers."

For further information on the RAPP project contact the local district home economist.

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Contact: Cathy Edge
427-2412

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

Seven Alberta companies share $718,162

Seven Alberta companies will share $718,162 to build and upgrade their facilities in the first round of financial incentives offered through a new federal-provincial agriculture processing agreement.

The facilities include a wide range of value, adding diversification projects undertaken by provincial businesses according to the joint announcement by acting federal Industry Minister Don Mazankowski and Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga.

The funding offered is the first given under the new Agricultural Processing and Marketing Agreement, which came into affect in February. It will assist the companies with projects that range from expanding feed mills, to upgrading meat processing facilities and potato and vegetable storage. The projects are expected to create 23 new jobs

Triple M Great West Feeds Ltd. will receive $506,000 under the program to go towards construction of a $2.5 million feed manufacturing plant in Red Deer. The project is expected to create 11 jobs.

In Edmonton, H.P.I. Beverages Ltd., D.G.L. Holdings Ltd., and I & S Produce Ltd. will use an offer of $74,935 to modernize and expand their soft drink processing operation. The $500,000 project will create an estimated 5.5 jobs.

Bassano Growers Co-op Ltd. will receive $57,549 to expand fresh potato storage at its potato and vegetable processing plant. The estimated capital cost of the project is $287,000.

A Cold Lake company, Hamel's Meats (1985) Ltd. will receive $28,716 to be used towards construction of a $100,000 meat processing facility. This project is expected to create four jobs.

Bouma Meats Ltd. of Provost will modernize and expand its meat processing operation with the help of $21,192 in assistance. The project is expected to cost about $84,000 and create one job.

(Cont'd)

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Seven Alberta companies share $718,162 (cont'd)

Three Hills IGA will receive $27,552 to establish a new meat processing facility in that town. Estimated to cost $98,400, the operation is expected to create 1.5 jobs.

Another Edmonton company, Central Alberta Meat Co. Ltd will recieve $2,218 to help modernize its meat processing plant. Total cost of the project is about $15,000.

The new program, which succeeds the Nutritive Processing Agreement, is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture.

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Contact: Dr. Jim Wiebe
427-4287

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

Bankers head back to school

If the local bank manager or credit officer seems more informed about agriculture lately, he or she was probably one of the 76 lenders who attended a recent workshop at Olds College, says Doug Barlund, co-ordinator of the program with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

The five-day, Agricultural Workshop for Lenders, is designed to give those who make decisions about lending money a greater awareness of current agricultural production methods, marketing techniques and business alternatives that can provide a profitable return.

Participants, in the seventh annual event, studied various enterprises, including cow-calf, beef feedlot, dairy, swine, poultry, irrigation, horses, bees, sheep and alternative crops such as market garden and greenhouse vegetables and fruits.

In addition to classroom discussion, they were able to see agriculture in action with farm tours to a nearby feedlot and dairy farm, says Barlund.

Along with five days of learning, a 600-page agricultural reference manual is provided for the students to take home. The manual is considered an excellent source of current information on the fundamentals of the major agricultural enterprises in the province, says the farm business management economist. If more information on a particular enterprise is needed, the manual also provides a contact list of names and telephone numbers of agricultural specialists within Alberta Agriculture.

Co-ordination and development of the workshop is provided by the farm business management branch with assistance from the agriculture departments of the banks in the province, and Extension Services, Olds College.

Sponsorship was provided by Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board, Alberta Wheat Pool, Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board and United Grain Growers.

(Cont'd)

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Bankers head back to school (cont'd)

"Alberta Agriculture and these producer groups are interested in developing better understanding and communication between banks and farmers," says Barlund.

Further information on the objectives of the Agricultural Workshop for Lenders, and the reference manual used in the course are available from Alberta Agriculture's Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Douglas E. Barlund,
556-4245.

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

Goat industry covers Alberta

In economic terms it doesn't make a very big drop in Alberta's agricultural bucket, but to as many as 5,000 farm families in the province, the goat industry is nothing to make baa..aa..ad jokes about.

Fighting the image of a cantankerous old billie that likes to eat pyjamas off the clothes line, the goat industry in the province ranges from the single farmyard pet to serious meat producers and dairymen with up to 300 head of goats, who ship milk daily for processing.

"There's really a broad range of people interested in goats," says Cathy Gallivan, the province's only goat specialist. Gallivan, who provides technical advice to goat producers, is also a sheep specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

"The average person probably doesn't realize there is a serious side to the goat industry," she says. "There are an awful lot of people who just have one or two animals around the yard, but there are also serious milk and meat producers and breeders as well."

Working with Gallivan is goat technician Sara Emond of Sunnybrook, south of Edmonton, who is a goat farmer herself. Emond says it takes a certain "emotional commitment" to be a goat farmer.

"You really have to like them as animals," she says. "They have a personality of their own. If you have proper fencing and keep them under control, you're okay.

"But there have been a lot of people who have got in and out of the business really fast because the goats weren't controlled and they ate the roses and walked on the car and that sort of stuff."

A ballpark figure puts the domestic goat population in Alberta at about 10,000 animals. Emond says if she counted all the people who have one or two animals right up to the ones with various size herds, there are probably 5,000 individuals involved to some degree with raising goats.

(Cont'd)

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Goat industry covers Alberta (cont'd)

To non-fanciers, the species seems to be more of a pet and according to certain literature, serves society by bumping trolls off bridges.

But that image misses the more serious aspect of the industry, says Emond. For dozens of children and adults allergic to certain proteins in cow's milk, goat's milk is an alternative. There is one fluid milk dairy in Alberta which processes milk for retail sale. It also produces a limited amount of yogurt. This dairy along with another new operation make goat cheese.

For other tastebuds, particularly within the ethnic community, goat meat sells for as much as $4.50 a pound at the supermarket. There is only one processor in Alberta actually butchering and supplying for retail outlets in Edmonton, but again more promotion is needed. Emond says kid meat tastes similar to the dark meat on turkey.

Lori Hughes, president of the Alberta Goat Breeders Association, says the industry is caught in a Catch 22 situation.

"If we were a stronger industry we would have more resources to work with. But because we are relatively small we aren't taken all that seriously and it is hard to get financing to expand and promote. And we won't be taken seriously until we become stronger.

"As goat producers we are now where other groups were many years ago," she says. "When the cattle industry, or the hog industry, or poultry industry was first starting out they had to find their own markets and do their own sales work and promotion. Now they can just roll up to the auction mart, unload the livestock and everything else is taken care of.

"In the goat industry we, as farmers, have to do the leg work of finding the markets, promoting the product and cover about three bases at once. And all this development and promotion work costs money and it's money we really don't have."

The Wetaskiwin area goat farmer says there is a market out there for goat meat and milk products, but often the problem is access to processors and markets.

(Cont'd)

Goat industry covers Alberta (cont'd)

"There are four producers who ship milk to a fluid milk processing plant and another three producers who ship milk to a cheese plant. But for someone in the south end of the province there would be no economical way for them to get their milk to the dairy in the central part of Alberta."

Hughes says there probably would be good demand for goat ice cream and butter but again it takes someone willing to invest the money to set up the processing operation and market the product.

There is also some money to be made by those involved in raising breeding stock and then there are about 1,000 Angora goats in Alberta dedicated to the production of mohair, used in producing specialty fabric. The mohair producers have an association separate from the Alberta Goat Breeders.

Although the demand for all these products is fairly good, Emond and Gallivan stop short of saying goat farming is an easy way to make money.

"Like everything else in life, it always looks better on paper," says Emond. "Goats take a lot of time and manpower simply because you have more animals to work with. If someone owned the land and had the facilities they could probably make a modest living milking 50 to 60 goats. That means you would need to keep 120 animals year round. But there are very few people in the province who make their sole living through goats."

Emond says there are some herds of 100 to 200 head in Alberta where the kid crop is raised for meat and the milk is processed for cheese.

There are dozens of one and two-head operations where people keep a goat because someone in the family is allergic to cow's milk or it is purely a pet. Many hobby farmers keep about 10 to 20 animals, while on the breeding side, most herds of purebred animals raised for blood line, range between 20 and 30 animals.

(Cont'd)

Goat industry covers Alberta (cont'd)

Work is underway to established an artificial insemination collection station at Airdrie to serve the goat industry.

"This would be the first one in Western Canada," says Emond. "And it certainly would be of value to Alberta breeding programs."

Hughes says in the breeding line, there are five major breeds of goat in Alberta. The Nubian, originally from Egypt, is almost a dual purpose variety - a good producer of both milk and meat. There are three Swiss breeds good for milk production along with a U.S. breed called LaMancha which is also good for milk.

She says the kids from any of the breeds are used as meat animals. Most dairy operations run a mixed breeding program to catch the best traits of the different breeds.

With more emphasis on recorded milk production, breeders are raising animals more productive to the industry. Hughes says some of the purebred stock used to look good, but produced very little milk. Now with records of production, goat farmers can see proof the animal being bought will be a good dairy animal.

"There are a lot of people in Alberta who believe in the goat industry and take what they are doing seriously," says Hughes. "But it is difficult because we are small and a lot of things work against us.

"In peak periods, such as Christmas and Easter a farmer might get $1 a pound for a kid on the hoof, but there's quite a mark-up between the producer price and the retail price," she says. "Also, it costs the producer about as much to have a small goat butchered as it does to butcher a whole cow, and that doesn't seem right either.

"I'm confident the industry will grow, but its going to take a lot work on the part of producers and a lot of promotional effort."

(Cont'd)

Goat industry covers Alberta (cont'd)

Shows are an important aspect to goat breeders and producers and during the year there are dozens of opportunities either in large provincial events or smaller commmunity fairs and exhibitions, to show the stock.

This month a couple of the larger events in Alberta include the Midwest Dairy Goat Producers Show in Lloydminster, July 12, followed by a show at the Westerner Exposition at Red Deer, July 19.

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Contact: Cathy Gallivan
427-5077

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

The mystery of amortized loans

While today's farmer or rancher knows he needs a new truck or some other piece of equipment he may not be sure of the best way to finance it.

Along with a straight bank loan, the amortized loan may offer some benefits a farmer should consider, says Craig Edwards, a farm economist with the Alberta Agriculture farm business management branch in Olds.

"Amortization seems to have an aura of mystery around it," he says. "And until you work it out it is hard to say which is the best route to go."

An amortized loan allows the farmer to pay off the debt by periodic partial payments of equal amounts compared to a straight loan, where the payments are made at regular times, but the amount changes over the term of the loan based on the remaining balance at the end of each year.

In an example created by Edwards comparing the two systems over a five year loan term, the amortized loan cost the borrower more interest, but the payments in the first two years were smaller than the payments in first two years of the straight loan.

"What this example says, if you can handle initially higher payments you are further ahead with the straight loan," says Edwards. But if amount of payment is a factor than the amoritized loan offers some break. The price for this privilege, of course, is paying more in interest charges."

"If a farmer wanted to borrow $20,000 to buy a new truck, he might be offered a straight loan for five years at 12 per cent or an amortized loan at the same terms. But which would be the best for the farmer?"

Dealing with the straight loan first, Edwards explains that $4,000 (one-fifth of the principal amount of $20,000) is paid at the end of every year for five years along with interest on the outstanding balance.

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The mystery of amortized loans (Cont'd)

Interest paid at the end of the first year equals $20,000 at 12 per cent or $2,400. The $4,000 in principal paid annually is deducted from the total creating a new principal balance at the end of each year. The original $20,000 less $4,000 leaves a balance of $16,000 at the end of the first year.

Interest paid at the end of the year amounts to 12 per cent of $16,000 or $1,920. At the end of year two, another $4,000 is applied to the principal reducing the principal balance to $12,000.

And so it goes, says Edwards, for the remainder of the term with the principal reduced to $8,000 at the end of year three, down to $4,000 at the end of year four and down to nothing with the final payment at the end of year five.

All along, the interest paid each year is calculated on the new principal balance. At the end of the straight loan, five-year term a total $6,200 has been paid in interest for a total payback of $26,200.

Looking at an amortized loan, a financial table is used to determine the periodic, equal payment of principal and interest combined.

Again, using the same $20,000 loan over five years at 12 per cent interest, Edwards determines that to pay back $1 over five years it costs .277409 cents a year. To payback $20,000 (with interest) it costs .277409 times $20,000 or $5,548.19 a year.

While the $5,548.19 doesn't change each year, the ratio of interest and principal within that payment does change.

In the first year, taking 12 per cent of $20,000 the interest is $2,400. That means that of the $5,548.19 payment, some $3,148 is going toward principal.

In the second year, with the principal reduced to $16,852, interest amounts to $2,022 with $3,526 going toward principal. At the end of year five, total interest amounts to $7,741 making a combined principal and interest total for this amortized loan of $27,740.

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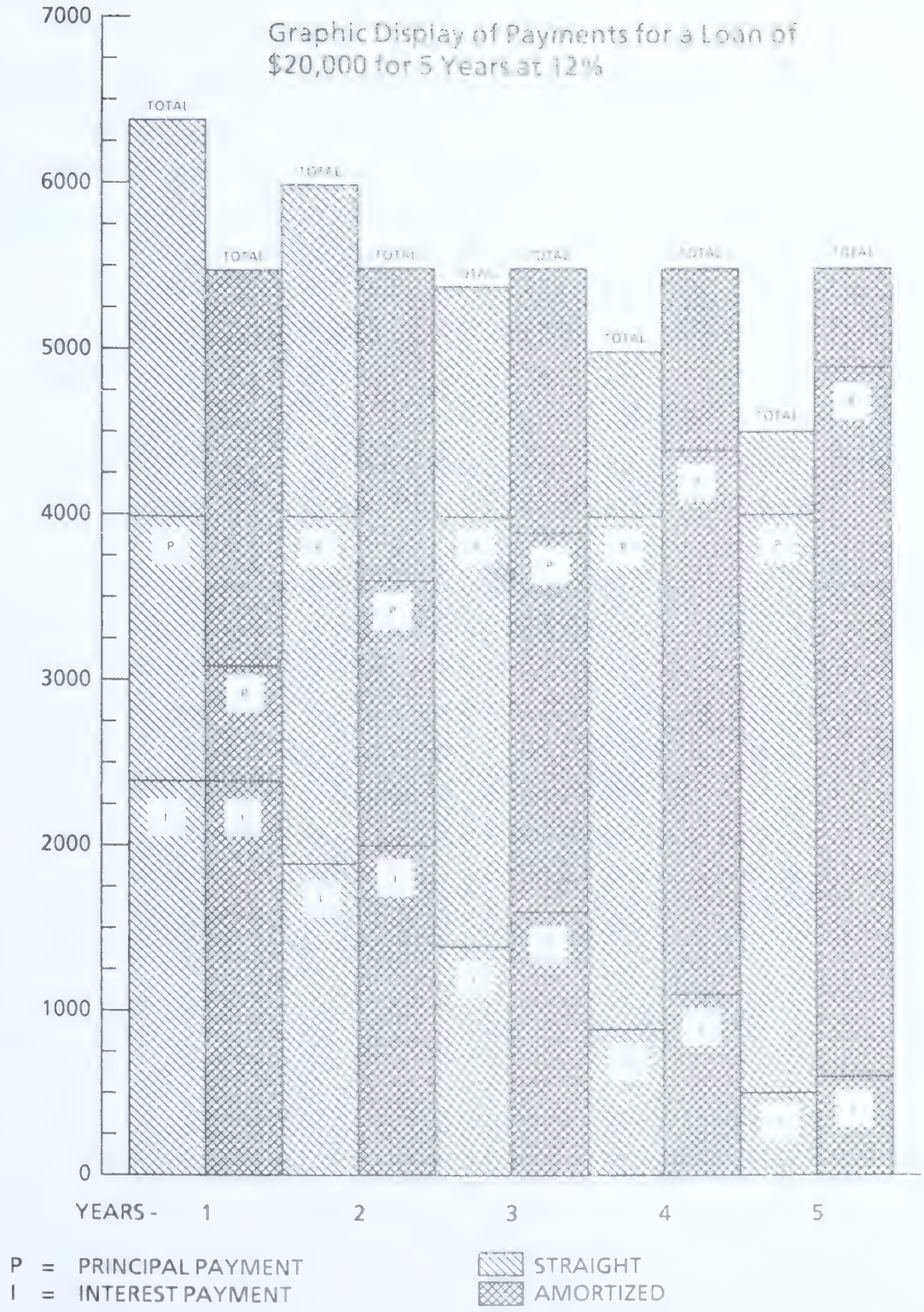

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The mystery of amortized loans (cont'd)

In comparing the two, says Edwards, the borrower would pay $1,541 more in interest for the amortized loan. The highest payments he faces would be $6,400 and $5,920 in the first and second years, respectively, of the straight loan compared to the static $5,548 in the amortized set up.

In the third, fourth and fifth years the payments for the straight loan are less than the amortized payments.

"If the borrower can afford the two higher payments in the first two years of the straight loan he can save himself $1,541 in interest," says Edwards. "Amortized loans provide a method of lower annual payments in the first years of the term. The cost of this privilege is to pay more interest on the loan over the time period.

"The figures can be provided, but it really depends on the farmer's situation at the time of the loan which determines the best approach for him to take. If his cash flow seems good, he is better off with the straight loan, but if money is in short supply, the amortized offers advantages."

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

July 7, 1986
For immediate release

Check Canola for stem rot problems

Depending on what stage of maturity the canola crop has reached, it is probably time for farmers to check for evidence of stem rot and decide whether spraying is needed.

Dr. Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant pathology with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says there is quite a range of crop maturity stages in the three million acres of canola grown across the province. But it is the right time to check for the risk of sclerotinia stem rot and decide whether action is needed.

"1986 appears to be a highly variable year for canola with respect to crop maturity," says Evans. "As of July 1 some fields were in full blossom while other fields were in the early rosette stage of growth."

To effectively treat sclerotinia the proper fungicide must be applied to the crop before the symptoms of stem rot are visible and the farmer must predict whether the use of a fungicide is economical.

To help farmers deal with disease the department has developed a 15 point checklist which will assist in deciding whether sclerotinia is a threat and whether spraying with a fungicide is worthwhile.

The checklist is found in the Canola Growers Manual and is also available from district agriculturists.

The time to fill out the checklist and assess the crop is shortly after the first flower has appeared, says Evans. The first flower occurs when 75 per cent of the plants in the field have three open flowers on the main stem.

The checklist helps a farmer decide whether his canola crops have been infected with stem rot in the past and determine whether conditions are right for stem rot to appear in the existing crop. Finally it provides questions which help decide whether it is worth spraying with fungicide to minimize the effect of the disease.

The answer to each question is assigned a point value with the final tally indicating whether protection is economical.

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Check canola for stem rot problems (cont'd)

Evans notes the checklist results are not absolute since severe infestations sometimes occur unexpectedly, but it does provide a benchmark for making decisions.

If the decision is made to spray the crop, the farmer must determine the best time to spray.

Sample several plants over the field and assess the number of open flowers, says Evans. One way to check for bloom stage is to find the main stem, rip off the secondary branches and count only the open flowers on the main stem.

Generally, if takes a crop two to four days, depending on the weather, to move from the first flower to 10 per cent bloom; one to two days from 10 to 20 per cent bloom; and one to two days from 20 to 30 per cent bloom. The number of opened flowers will indicate the flowering stage.

Indications of flowering stages of canola

Flowering stage %	Number of open flowers on the main stem	
	B. napus	B. campestris
10	at least 10	6-7
20	14-16	10-12
30	at least 20	14-16

Argentine-type canola, such as Westar and Altex varieties, generally gives a much greater response to a fungicide application than the Polish types, such as Tobin and Candle. Although the disease levels may be reduced significantly in Polish canola, yield increase can vary from no change to up to eight bushels per acre in a 30 to 40 bushel per acre crop.

(Cont'd)

Check canola for stem rot problems (cont'd)

Benlate by DuPont and Rovral by May and Baker are two fungicides registered for sclerotinia control in canola for both aerial and ground application. They should be applied at 16 litres per acre (aerial) and 40 litres per acre (ground) water volume.

For details on the disease checklist and spraying application, check the Canola Growers Manual or contact a district agriculturist.

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Contact: Dr. Ieuvan Evans
427-5350

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG - 6 1986

July 14, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Cattle die from algae poisoning.....1
Forms available soon for grasshopper assistance program.....4
Norwin winter wheat not available, yet.....6
Treating water deserves some thought.....7
Range tour planned at Stavely.....10
Farmers steer clear of "hot" chemicals.....12
Feed analysis works like a road map.....14
New district home economist in Medicine Hat.....18

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July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Cattle die from algae poisoning

The sudden death of 16 cows, on a north central Alberta farm in late June, should emphasize to farmers throughout Alberta that algae poisoning in water sources can be a very real and costly problem, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The cattle died within two hours of drinking from a water hole on a farm near Rochester, south of Athabasca, says Archie Archampong, a water engineer in Edmonton. Some of the heifers dropped within 10 feet of the water hole and calves were still trying to suck milk from dying mothers when the veterinary arrived to investigate.

Cause of the deaths which resulted in an estimated $16,000 loss was blue-green algae poisoning in the water hole, says Archampong. It is a condition which can develop in any part of the province. It is a problem that can also be prevented with a simple application of bluestone in the water source.

Blue-green algae multiplies in sloughs, dugouts, ponds and lakes when the weather gets hot, dry and calm. The algae grows rapidly in stagnant water during warm sunny days. Usually the condition develops later in the season, but because of the hot weather this spring, it has shown up earlier in some areas.

The algae produce a heavy concentration of cells that color the water dark green to dark blue. In some rare cases, the water may even turn greenish brown to red. This heavy growth and concentration of algae is called waterbloom, says the engineer.

Wind blowing toward the shore, concentrates surface waterblooms into thick scums at the edge of the waterhole or pond. During waterbloom the algae produces poisons that can kill livestock and other animals. Poisoning can occur when animals drink water containing waterbloom or injest some of the poisonous algae.

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Cattle die from algae poisoning (cont'd)

There are two kinds of blue-green algae poisons. One type (alkaloids) attacks the animal's nervous system and kills by suffocation.

"Alkaloid poisons kill suddenly and instantly and that is probably what affected these cattle near Rochester," says Archampong.

The other type (polypeptides) attack internal organs especially the liver.

Symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning range from loss of appetite and weight loss, spontaneous abortion of pregnant females, rigid extension of legs and neck, reddening, blistering and swelling of tissues, intense itching - animals rub affected areas causing injury and secondary bacterial infection and in the worst cases instant and sudden death. There has been some success in treating less severely affected cattle and the farmer should consult a veterinary for information.

The most successful method in controlling algae and preventing losses is by treating stock water with copper sulfate or bluestone, says Archampong. An application rate of one pound for every 100,000 gallons of water treated is recommended.

"Apply as a dilute spray or place in a cloth sack and pull over the dugout surface until it is dissolved," he says. "Apply one treatment now and repeat it in mid-summer".

Archmapong says if the water source is too large to be treated, the better solution might be to restrict cattle access to a stock water tank which is supplied with treated water from the lake or pond.

Further details on algae poisoning can be found in the Agri-fax publication, Blue Green Algal Poisoning of Cattle (Agdex 666-4) available from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton Alberta, T6H 5T6.

(Cont'd)

Cattle die from algae poisoning (cont'd)

Information on specific water problems can be obtained by calling a district agriculturist or one of the following regional engineering staff: Orin Kenzie, Lethbridge, 381-5112; Rich Smith, Airdrie, 948-5101; Ken Williamson, Red Deer, 340-5324; Larry Wasylik, Vermilion, 853-8109; Bob Buchanan, Barrhead, 674-8253 and Bill Cornwell, Fairview 835-2291.

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Contact: Regional engineer
(your area)

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July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Forms available soon for grasshopper assistance program

Application forms and further details on the grasshopper control assistance program should be available to Alberta farmers later this month.

Dr. Bruce Jeffery, administrator of the 1986 Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance Program in Edmonton, says the application forms and program condition brochures will be available from district agriculturists or participating municipal offices by the fourth week of July.

Completed applications must be returned to these offices no later than November 30, 1986.

This is the second year for the Alberta Agriculture assistance program which was first introduced in 1985 to help farmers reduce their cost of controlling one of the worst grasshopper infestations in years, says Jeffery.

Applicants will be paid a grant covering 50 per cent of the cost of insecticide used only for grasshopper control, on land located within Alberta. No grant is paid towards the cost of application. The applicant does not have to be a resident of Alberta to qualify.

Eligible insecticides include Sevin XLR, Furadan, Decis, Dimethoate, Malathion, Lorsban, Hopper Stopper, Counter 15G, Diazinon, Monitor, Methoxychlor, Guthion and other chemicals registered in Canada for grasshopper control.

The insecticide must have been bought from a licensed dealer or applicator, paid for in full and used only for control of grasshoppers. The program applies to purchases made between December 1, 1985 and November 30, 1986.

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Forms available soon for grasshopper assistance program (cont'd)

All applications must be accompanied by invoices showing the name of the applicant, name of dealer or applicator who sold the product, date of purchase and name(s) and quantity of insecticide purchased. It must also show the chemical has been paid for in full.

Invoices must be originals, carbon copies or non-carbon reproductions. Photocopies of invoices are not acceptable, says Jeffery. The invoices can be photocopied at Alberta Agriculture district offices or participating municipal offices and the originals returned to the applicant.

An applicant may apply only once under the 1986 program. Applicants must declare the quantity of insecticide either returned to the dealer or not used during the program period.

"All transactions concerning purchase, use and return of unused chemicals must be complete before the application is made," says Jeffery.

For further information, contact the district agriculturist office.

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Contact: Bruce Jeffery
or June Barlund
422-5879

July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Norwin winter wheat not available, yet

Farmers expecting to plant Norwin winter wheat this fall, are better advised to line up another variety this year says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Bill Witbeck, supervisor of seed technology with the field crops branch in Lacombe, says in spite of earlier reports that Norwin would be available for planting this fall, the seed has not yet received registration in Canada.

Norwin is a U.S. variety which is used extensively south of the border. To be distributed in Canada the variety must receive registration in this country.

A report issued from other sources earlier this year said the variety would be available for use in 1986, says Witbeck.

"Norwin has not been licensed yet in Canada and I would advise farmers to go ahead and line up some other variety for planting this fall," says Witbeck. "It is highly unlikely Norwin will be available this year, although we will advise farmers as soon as it is registered."

The spokesman also says suggestions that the Provincial Stock Seed Distribution Committee will handle the distribution of Norwin are also misleading. Witbeck says the method of release, when Norwin is approved, has not been decided.

For further information on the variety contact the designated Canadian plant breeder, Dr. Brian Fowler, Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N OWO, phone 306-966-4973, or Bill Witbeck in Lacombe at 782-4641.

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Contact: Bill Witbeck
782-4641

July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Treating water deserves some thought

Home owners trying to get rid of unwanted minerals in drinking water should weigh what they are getting for the amount spent before making any investments, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Water engineer, Archie Archampong, in Edmonton says equipment sold to reduce mineral content in water can produce a variety of results depending on conditions.

A process known as reverse osmosis (RO) which essentially forces drinking water through a type of filtering system can produce good results although variables such as water quality, temperature, water pressure and other factors can affect results.

In Alberta, domestic RO units cost $400 - $1,300 depending on make and options provided. Counter-top models are the simplest and least expensive, while units installed under the kitchen sink, equipped with booster pumps and water fountains, are more complex and costly.

"Reverse osmosis is a method of removing minerals and other contaminants from drinking water," says Archampong. "Raw water under pressure is forced against a semi-permeable membrane. Practically mineral free water is allowed to pass through the membrane and the remaining brine concentrate is wasted down the drain.

"Up to eight gallons of water is wasted for every gallon of treated water. The method is simple and removes up to 70 to 90 per cent of dissolved contaminants from the raw water."

Factors which can affect the amount and quality of treated water include the type of RO membrane used, the membrane arrangement (module configuration), the raw water quality, the pressure of the raw water and the temperature of the raw water.

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Treating water deserves some thought (cont'd)

"All RO membranes have limitations," says the engineer. "Some membranes do better than others when used under specific task conditions. The problem is, manufacturers are secretive about what the membranes are made of and this makes it difficult to select the right membrane for a specific raw water problem."

Some membranes (spiral wound module) are wrapped around a centre pipe that collects treated water. Other membranes (hollow fibre modules) are spun into hair-like hollow fibre tubes which are bundled together. These types of membrane arrangements are most popular for domestic RO units. The hollow fibre modules can withstand high water pressure better than the spiral wound modules.

The engineer notes RO modules are easily fouled if the raw water is muddy. If it is really turbid it may be necessary to pre-filter the raw water. Dissolved minerals in excess of 2,000 milligrams per litre of water can create problems for RO units.

"If your water is highly mineralized it may be necessary to consider an alternative water source," says Archampong.

The performance of RO units is greatly affected by pressure of the raw water, he says. The higher the pressure the better the water quality and the more treated water produced. The operating pressure range of most farm water supplies is 20 to 50 pounds per square inch (psi). In some RO units the treated water is stored in a small pressure tank. This pressure tank produces a back pressure that lowers the actual pressure across the membrane. Some RO units have booster pumps that raise water pressure by 60 to 70 psi. This improves the performance of the RO unit.

RO units perform best when water temperature is between 25° and 38° C. For every decrease of 1°C in raw water temperature the treated water yield is decreased by two to three per cent of the specified yield.

"In Alberta with typical ground water temperatures near 5°C the potential reduction of the treated water yield is about 50 per cent of what the manufacturer tells you," says Archampong.

(Cont'd)

Treating water deserves some thought (cont'd)

"Engineering staff of Alberta Agriculture conducted a one-year preliminary field test on three RO units sold in Alberta," he says. "Though further testing is required to learn more about these RO units, preliminary results support the problem of less than expected treated water yields."

Alberta Agriculture publication "Reverse Osmosis", Agdex 716 (D36) provides additional information about RO systems. Copies can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Also further advice on individual water treatment problems can be obtained from district agriculturists, district home economists or the following regional engineering staff: Orin Kenzie, Lethbridge, 381-5112; Rich Smith, Airdrie, 948-5101; Ken Williamson, Red Deer, 340-5324; Larry Wasylik, Vermilion, 853-8109; Bob Buchanan, Barrhead, 674-8253 and Bill Cornwell, Fairview 835-2291.

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Contact: Regional engineer
(your area)

Alberta
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Print Media Branch
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July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Range tour planned at Stavely

Range users and range managers from across Alberta are invited to Stavely later this month for a look at what nearly 40 years of grazing trials can mean to a pasture.

Organized by the Alberta chapter of the Society for Range Management, the tour at the Agriculture Canada range station at Stavely, will allow ranchers and other range managers an opportunity to discuss range management problems and see the results of good range management practices.

Bob Wroe, range management supervisor with Alberta Agriculture in Lacombe, says the three day program, running July 24 - 26, is open to anyone interested in range management, even if they are not a member of the society.

The annual society tour, which has been organized with the help of several local ranchers, will be based at the Stavely range station, 12 miles west of Stavely. It will basically be a camping set up, with participants invited to bring campers, trailers or tents to the temporary camp site at the station. Meals, water and other services will be available.

"Really all a person needs to do is bring a sleeping bag and a toothbrush," says Wroe. "They can either sleep under the stars or in one of the buildings at the station."

Registration will begin at 1 p.m. July 24. The program will include a field identification seminar on plant species led by Gerry Wheeler, with Alberta Forestry in Edmonton.

Wroe says participants will form small groups for a closer look at different plants and general discussions on range condition.

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Range tour planned at Stavely (cont'd)

Also during the program, Dr. Walter Willms, of Agriculture Canada Research Station in Lethbridge, will use the 40 years of grazing trials on the Stavely station, to example points on beef production, various livestock stocking rates, carrying capacities, changes in soil profiles, moisture retention and run off.

While most of the tour will involve discussion of native grasses there is also a tame forage species trial at the station to be examined.

Off the station, participants will have a look at range management practices on the century-old A-7 Cattle Ranch, look at sheep herd management and see how sheep are being used to assist with brush control.

Also during the tour, Barry Adams, with the lands division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources in Lethbridge will talk about the latest technology of using remote sensing as a range management tool. The concept is to use data and photos transmitted from an orbiting satellite to point out changes in grass species and assist with livestock distribution and other management problems.

The tour wraps up at noon July 26 with a plant identification contest. Also, any remaining food will be auctioned to tour participants.

Wroe says wives and families are invited on the tour and can either join in discussions or explore the local area.

A nominal fee will be charged during registration to cover the cost of food.

Further information on the tour can be obtained from Bob Wroe at Lacombe at 782-4641.

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Contact: Bob Wroe
782-4641

July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Farmers steer clear of "hot" chemicals

Alberta farmers shouldn't be tempted by characters selling stolen farm chemicals at rock bottom prices, says a spokesman for the RCMP.

Const. Jerry Keane, with General Investigation Services at K-division headquarters in Edmonton, says a farmer buying chemicals, which are obviously "hot" can face criminal code charges for possession of stolen property.

"If someone is offered some sort of farm chemical at a ridiculously low price, he should be very suspect as to how this chemical was obtained," says Keane. "The farmer should stay away from the deal and report the matter to the local RCMP detachment."

Although Keane did not have exact figures he says the stolen farm chemicals trade is a "very lucrative" business in Alberta.

A simple example has a thief breaking into a grain elevator storage shed or other supply centre, stealing a few pails of a herbicide or insecticide and selling it, with no questions asked, to a farmer at a greatly reduced price.

With some chemicals costing as much as $280 for a 19-litre pail, and farmers facing lower incomes, it is not surprising these deals are appealing, says Keane. However, he says, the farmer is at risk of being charged with possession of stolen property and at least faces the possibility of having the chemical seized during an investigation.

The RCMP spokesmen says it does not appear there is any organized ring of thieves operating in the province. He says there have been chemical thefts this year similar to reports from Saskatchewan.

In the neighboring province police report 31 break-ins so far this year with the value of stolen chemical estimated at $100,000.

(Cont'd)

Farmers should steer clear of "hot" chemicals (cont'd)

"Our best advice to elevator managers or anyone handling these chemicals is to make sure they are stored safely and securely," says Keane. "And to farmers we urge them to avoid any suspicious deals and advise the RCMP if they have been approached."

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Contact: Local RCMP detachment

July 14, 1986
For immediate release

Feed analysis works like road map

To some farmers and ranchers feed testing may seem unimportant, but time and money spent now, could save a producer hundreds or even thousands of dollars in feed costs and help increase livestock production.

Testing hay, silage, and grain tells a farmer what nutrients are in that feed and how it suits the needs of livestock being fed, whether it's cows, yearlings, chickens, hogs or whatever.

Two livestock nutritionists with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton say a feed analysis will provide a solid base from which a producer can plan a winter feeding program.

The belief that if feed looks good, it must have good value, is far from the truth say Al McNeil, a ruminant nutritionist and Abdul Suleiman, a lab nutritionist with the department.

There is no reliable way through color, smell or general appearance to tell whether any feed has good nutritional value, say the specialists. And the nutrients can vary widely from year to year and from field to field.

Feed testing can be compared to the Smoky Lake farmer who decides to drive to Texas. Before hitting the road he is probably going to consult a road map for the best route to take. This will make the most efficient use of time and money. The feed test analysis is the road map to a good feeding program.

"Unless a farmer has the feed tested he has no way of being sure what nutrients are in that feed," says Suleiman. "He doesn't know which way to go with the feeding program. A basic analysis will tell him the calcium, phosphorous and protein levels in the feed. Depending on the class of livestock, he can come up with a feeding program that makes the best use of the feed."

(Cont'd)

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Feed analysis works like a road map (cont'd)

McNeil says while Alberta Agriculture has a feed testing service there are also five private feed test labs in the province that can provide analysis.

Looking at forage crops, McNeil says factors such as type and rate of fertilization, weather conditions and age of stand play a role in determining the nutritional value of feeds.

"From field to field, from legumes to grass, from year to year the nutrional levels in forage crops can vary widely," he says. "With a feed analysis perhaps the farmer will learn he has high quality forage and for the class of livestock being fed can adjust feeding rates and still meet nutritional requirements."

McNeil says a farmer might be able to mix straw with good hay to stretch the feed supply further. On the other hand, the analysis may tell him what he thought was good feed, actually is really lacking in protein or minerals and he will have to provide additonal nutrients.

The analysis might also tell him that poorer quality hay or silage will meet the needs of his cattle before calving, but he should switch over to better feed after calving to meet the cows' increased nutritional requirements. By testing now he can make decisions early and perhaps get better prices on supplement supplies.

McNeil says the basic feed analysis only states nutritional values, but with this information the farmer can ask Alberta Agriculture, a private lab or feed supply company for a complete recommendation on how it can be used in the feeding program.

Along with measuring calcium, phosphorous and protein levels, the basic forage analysis also provides a reading on fibre content, while the basic grain analysis provides a bushel weight figure. If requested the analysis can provide further information such as levels of trace minerals, selenium and other components. McNeil says there is less variability in grain nutrients than in forage crops.

(Cont'd)

Feed analysis works like a road map (cont'd)

For a reliable feed analysis the specialists say it is important to properly collect samples to be sent to the lab. Samples should be taken as the crop is being harvested and sent for analysis to avoid the rush in the fall.

To collect silage samples Suleiman says the farmer should take a handful of silage from each load brought to the pit each day and keep those grab samples refrigerated. If it takes two or three days to cut one field, samples should be taken each day. When one field is done, all the sub-samples should be blended and a representative sample, enough to half fill a bread bag, should be collected for analysis. The final sample should be put in a plastic bag and frozen to preserve quality.

It is important for farmers to minimize the transportation time in taking the frozen samples from home to the district agriculturist or private lab to ensure the sample quality doesn't deteriorate.

As silage is cut from different fields or a different type of forage, another representative sample should be collected.

Hay samples should be carefully sampled as well, says Suleiman. After the hay has been baled the farmer should take a core sample from several bales in one field or of one forage type. Again these sub-samples should be mixed to create a representative sample for that field. When either changing fields or crops, a new representative sample is needed. A core sampler is available from a district agriculturist.

Grains again require the same approach with sub-samples collected from each field and put together for a representative sample. A one pound representative sample is adequate for testing.

Suleiman says several samples from the crop provide the best picture of overall nutrient levels.

Provided the hay is dry when baled and covered to minimize weather effect, the forage quality (and the analysis) will not change even if the feed sits for years, says McNeil.

Silage that is packed and sealed will also retain its original nutrional value for years. Properly stored grains are the same.

(Cont'd)

Feed analysis works like a road map (cont'd)

The nutrionist says the net effect from feed analysis can only provide benefits.

The farmer, by following a good feeding program, can look for gains in such areas as increased productivity, increased fertility, better weight gains, higher weaning weights, fine tuning of mineral and other feed supplement programs and possibility of stretching the feed supply.

For further information on feed analysis contact the local district agriculturist or feed supply company.

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Contact: Abdul Suleiman
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July 14, 1986
For immediate release

New district home economist in Medicine Hat

Leona Quantz, a 1986 graduate from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, will be acting district home economist in Medicine Hat this year.

Quantz, born and raised on a farm near Innisfail, graduated in June with a bachelor of science degree, majoring in home economics and specializing in clothing and textiles.

In an announcement made by Louise Broderson, regional home economist in Lethbridge, Quantz will be filling in for the regular district home economist, Brenda Powell, who is away on maternity leave.

The acting home economist attended Red Deer College for a year before transferring to the U of A for the final three years leading to her degree.

Prior to this appointment, she served in 1985 as a summer assistant district home economist in Three Hills. She was a member of a 4-H clothing club for eight years and was an active member of the 4-H organization from the local to provincial levels.

Along with her DHE duties in Medicine Hat, she is also involved in the Rural Education and Development Association. REDA is a non-profit organization, similar to 4-H, involved in youth and adult leadership programs.

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Contact: Leona Quantz
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July 21, 1986

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This Week

Applicants needed for career training program.....1
Test kitchen provides home-style recipes.....3
Pasture quality drops off in August.....6
Vegetable buyers prepare for Alberta tour.....9
Make the most of preconditioning.....12
Is record keeping a waste of time?.....15
Productivity from farm planning 17
Field day season in bloom.....19
Markerville girl wins scholarship.....22
Farmers' Market Awareness Week planned.....23

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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Applicants needed for career training program

Albertans interested in a career in agriculture can take advantage of an on-the-job training program offered through Alberta Agriculture, which provides for an income while learning farming skills.

The Green Certificate Farm Training Program, allows men and women, who may have no experience in agriculture at all to learn the skills of raising all classes of livestock, growing crops and operating machinery by working, right on the farm, with farmers participating in the program.

Douglas Taylor, supervisor of farm training for Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says more applicants are urged to take advantage of the apprenticeship-style program run by Alberta Agriculture with the support of Alberta Manpower.

"Today's farming is a highly productive and complex industry and farms need highly skilled and technically competent people to run them," says Taylor. "People are needed who can work with valuable livestock, operate and repair complex machinery and utilize management skills to operate the enterprise.

"There's little room in this industry for people who don't have the qualifications or experience to meet the job requirements of today's farms. The Canada Farm Labor Pool regulary reports job opportunities for competent employees going unfilled in many farming sectors."

Taylor says there is room under the Green Certificate program for more applicants. He says they need to be at least 18 years old and have a genuine interest in an agricultural career. The average age of trainees is in the mid-20's and many are married with dependants. No previous farm experience is needed, just a desire to learn. Program participants will be paid as they learn their skills.

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Applicants needed for career training program (cont'd)

The Green Certificate program was developed by the department to train new entrants or upgrade existing employees and provide job skills certification. In the interest of enhancing economic development through the support of industry-based skill training, Alberta Manpower has recently joined Alberta Agriculture in providing program support.

"This support for on-the-job training activities will enable the program to expand and provides significant long term stability to this career training scheme," says Taylor.

The program operates on an apprenticeship style and provides a chance for participants to earn while they work on the farm of an approved training employer. Also, the trainee decides how far he or she wants to advance on the program. The first level of a Green Certificate is designed to meet the skill needs of a farm technician, the second level covers skills of a herdsman or production manager and level three meets the training needs of a farm business manager or owner.

Once an application is received the department will provide counselling to the prospective trainee. These discussions will cover career expectations and help decide if Green Certificate is appropriate to the needs of the trainee.

"The program has been operating for 10 years and many hundreds of graduates have found excellent jobs on farms or are farming on their own," says Taylor.

"If a person is interested in a working career in farming, he or she should consider the exciting possibilities available through the program. Applications are invited from prospective trainees interested in dairy, beef, swine, sheep, crops and irrigated crop production.

"The program operates province-wide and training site availability is variable," says the supervisor.

Anyone interested should contact the regional farm training specialist through any district office of Alberta Agriculture.

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Contact: Douglas Taylor
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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Test kitchen provides home-style recipes

Consumers have almost come to expect food packaging to include cooking instructions and recipes, but that convenient information doesn't come out of the blue, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Cathy Edge, who co-ordinates the efforts of the department's test kitchen in Edmonton, says a lot of effort and skill goes into developing, testing and editing information.

Edge, the department's provincial food specialist and her assistant don't do all the recipes and serving information for products found in food stores, but they do assist many Alberta food processors with that simple, yet key ingredient that makes a product more appealing and more useful to the consumer.

"Our priority is to work with Alberta food processors who either don't have the expertise or perhaps the money to develop and write recipes and other product information," says Edge. "It is a service we provide the processors, at no charge, but actually we consider our true clients to be the consumers.

"How many people have been in the position of finding a new or different food product at the grocery store, but have no idea of how to use it?"

Coming up with a recipe for ingredients to go inside an Alberta-made egg roll wrapper is just one example of the projects tackled in the test kitchen.

Working with no more equipment than is found in an average Alberta home, Edge and her assistant accept and solve recipe-related concerns facing food companies.

"The egg roll recipe is common to many of the projects we undertake," says Edge. "The food processor had developed an egg roll wrapper, but wanted a recipe to include on the package so the consumer knew how to use it and what to put inside it.

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Cathy Edge in the Alberta Agriculture test kitchen in Edmonton

Another project tackled by the kitchen involved a food processor who developed a cake mix-type product and wanted some different recipes on how to use it. Also, a Calgary company was selling specialty beef and wanted some recipes on how to prepare this meat.

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Test kitchen provides home-style recipes (cont'd)

"So working in the test kitchen we develop household size recipes, which can be used in the average Alberta kitchen," says Edge. "With the meat project, for example, we developed some quick and easy recipes for microwave cooking."

Edge says the approach is usually to start with a very basic recipe and try different ingredients, combinations and quantities to come up with the finished product.

"I don't think there is a recipe out there that can't be improved or adapted to meet different tastes and needs," she says.

"We try to complete a project as fast as possible, but some companies don't understand what it takes to develop a reliable recipe or set of recipes. It doesn't happen overnight. It's not just coming up with the ideas, it is making sure the recipes work and making sure they will work in the average kitchen."

Along with developing recipes the specialists also write and edit copy that is either used on promotional material or printed directly on product packaging. The service also extends to providing suggestions for using products and incorporating them into weekly menus and developing directions to consumers on storage and use of food products.

When the kitchen isn't working on an industry project, it is often used to test recipes which are included in Alberta Agriculture publications such as "Saving Time And Money In The Farm Kitchen". There are also a variety of publications with directions and recipes on how to use a wide range of fresh Alberta products.

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Contact: Cathy Edge
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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Pasture quality drops off in August

If livestock producers can take steps to compensate for a decline in pasture quality in late summer, they could make more money and improve the condition of their animals, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Although it can vary, from grass species to species and area to area, generally all pastures lose nutritional value as the season progresses, says Al McNeil a ruminant nutritionist with the department in Edmonton.

It may not always be possible because of costs or distance limitations to do something to supplement daily nutritional requirements, but farmers and ranchers should be aware forage is losing food value from about August 1 on.

Plants basically have one purpose - to produce seed. As most species mature and set seed, the proteins and minerals that have been present in the plant system during the growing season decline.

This principle would not apply to a pasture that has been cut or grazed earlier in the season and continues to regrow with sufficient moisture.

But whether it's native range or tame grass, the quality of forage declines as the season progresses and the plant reaches maturity.

"Generally any time after August 1 the farmer or rancher should expect pasture quality to decline," says McNeil. "And if it's possible he should be looking at supplemental feeds to meet the nutritional requirements of his livestock, whether its yearlings or cows and calves."

As the plants mature the fibre level increases while the protein and phosphorous levels drop. Associated with plant maturity is reduced forage intake.

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Pasture quality drops off in August (cont'd)

McNeil says the total protein level in mature forage probably drops to as low as four to six per cent and in some species even lower.

"These low protein levels reduce milk production as well as reduce, or eliminate gains on yearling cattle. In fact later in the year, cattle can lose weight," he says.

The nutritionist says there are several options open to farmers and ranchers if they want to counteract the decline in forage values.

The yearling operator can market the animals earlier or provide a grain supplement on the pasture.

"When the rate of weight gain is lower than is profitable perhaps he could consider selling early," says McNeil. "It's a personal decision someone's going to have to make, but the livestock may reach a point where they aren't going to earn him any extra money by keeping them longer and in fact the cattle may even start to lose weight.

"Another option is to provide a grain supplement or phosphorous (1:1 mineral) with the trace mineral salt, while the yearlings are on pasture."

He says this approach would depend on factors such as ease of access to the pasture, the price of grain and the market objectives the farmer has in mind.

Between two to four pounds of grain per head, per day would help the animals meet their energy, protein and phosphorous needs.

The cow/calf operator could consider either providing the calves with creep feed on pasture or early weaning.

"By creep feeding he not only provides supplemental feed for the calves, but he also takes the pressure off the cow in terms of milk production," says McNeil.

Again this option would depend on the cost of grain, nearness and access to pasture and condition of the cows.

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Pasture quality drops off in August (cont'd)

Early weaning, weighed against the economics and logistics can also be considered, he says.

Early weaning gives the cow a break since a dry cow's nutritional requirements are not as great as a lactating cow.

"The livestock producer has to consider the market objectives for the calves," says McNeil. "He should be careful that calves being kept as replacement heifers don't become overfleshed which could lead to problems down the road."

The nutritionist notes mineral requirements such as calcium, phosphorous and trace minerals also must be met.

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Contact: Al McNeil
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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Vegetable buyers prepare for Alberta tour

The people who supply fresh vegetable products to the local supermarket will be making a two-stage tour of the province in August, meeting growers and checking the quality of Alberta-grown produce.

It's the first time representatives of the 10 major wholesale companies and retail buyers will be on a tour like this in Alberta, says Sharon Chmielewski, spokesman for the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board (AFVMB) in Lethbridge.

The intent is for buyers and producers to get acquainted and better promote vegetables sales which last year brought Alberta growers just under $5 million.

The tour, hosted by the vegetable marketing board, will be offered in two stages with a look August 12 at northern growers in the Peace River and Grande Prairie regions.

Buyers will be back on the plane August 27 and 28 for the southern and central Alberta leg of the tour covering growers from Edmonton to Taber.

Bruce Johnson, chairman of the AFVMB says the tours are designed to develop a better line of communication between the produce buyers and the producers.

"It will be an educational, informational and enlightening three days," says Johnson who is a vegetable grower from Taber.

The one-day northern Alberta tour will include the farms of Bill Henderson and Jim Friesen who grow mixed vegetables including carrots, corn, cabbage, rutabagas and broccoli.

The southern part of the tour will include farms such as Johnson's which specializes in broccoli, Wayne VanGiessen at Coaldale, a cauliflower grower, Ted Allen at Taber, an onion grower and the Newell Vegetables Ltd. (packer/broker) facility at Brooks.

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Vegetable buyers prepare for Alberta tour (cont'd)

The central portion of the tour will include the farms of Young Soo Jung, who specializes in Chinese vegetables, Edmonton Co-op Acreage, growers of broccoli, Jim Marles, a carrot grower and Holes Greenhouse and Gardens, a packing facility, all in the Edmonton area.

As part of the tours the AFVMB will host a banquet or luncheon, during stops in the north, central and southern regions.

On the northern stop there will be a luncheon for buyers hosted by Jim Friesen.

A banquet is planned in Taber, August 27 for producers and buyers on the southern tour. Guest speaker will be Garry Wagner of Scott National Co. Ltd. who was recently named the "Produce Man of the Year" by the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers Association.

"The social evening will encourage produce buyers and producers to get to know one another and to develop an open line of communication," says Johnson. "It is hoped this event is only the beginning of the development of good buying and selling relationships."

A luncheon will be held at the Alberta Tree Nursery just north east of Edmonton August 28, to complement the banquet in southern Alberta. The luncheon, says Johnson, will enable producers of the central area to meet and exchange ideas with the produce buyers on the tour.

"The vegetable marketing board is working very closely with Alberta Agriculture to increase the public awareness of this industry and its diverse scope," says Johnson.

Chmielewski says the vegetable industry has been growing steadily since 1980.

"The past five years have seen an increase in acreage of approximately 89 per cent from 2,080 acres in 1980 to 3,900 acres in 1985," she says. "And an increase in sales of approximately 54 per cent from $3.2 million in 1980 to $4.9 million in 1985 has also been noted."

(Cont'd)

Vegetable buyers prepare for Alberta tour (cont'd)

New crops, such as baby carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, Chinese vegetables, green onions and radishes are meeting growing marketing trends for fresh produce, she says.

For further information on the tour contact Chielewski at the marketing board office, 327-0447.

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Contact: Sharon Chmielewski
327-0447

July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Make the most of preconditioning

Heavier calves and top prices are two possible results from a certified program available to Alberta beef producers, says a spokesman for Alberta Agriculture.

To get the greatest return by preconditioning calves for the auction and feedlot, Brian Harris says the farmer or rancher must get those animals gaining weight quickly.

Bigger profits come not only through better prices paid for preconditioned calves, but for the extra pounds on the animal on sale day. Another benefit from the program is getting the calves off the cows earlier gives the cows a chance to improve their own condition heading into winter.

Harris, coordinator of the Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder (ACPF) program, says if calves gain weight slowly the farmer is going to see less value in the program.

The concept of preconditioning is to wean calves about two months before market, pump some good feed into them and generally get them in top shape for sale. The calves will already have overcome the strain of weaning and will be better able to cope with the stress of being hauled to and handled at the auction and feedlot.

Because the animals on the certified preconditioning program have a better health status, the sale price is usually higher.

The program which has been operating in Alberta for six years, is certified through a local veterinarian, to assure buyers that animals billed as "preconditioned" have indeed gone through the program.

"During the last six years some cow-calf producers have been very happy with the performance and returns they received for their calves and have continued to precondition their calves each year," says Harris. "Other producers have tried the program for one or two years and have given up saying, there is not enough return.

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Make the most of preconditioning (cont'd)

"The main difference in these two groups of cattlemen appears to be the performance of the calves."

Cattle producers who are able to obtain superior weight gains also recorded lower costs per pound of gain, says Harris. This means the producers were able to increase the dollar returns both through increased premiums and by selling substantially more pounds of calf.

In contrast, producers who fed the calves for low weight gains did not have much heavier calves to sell and could only rely on increased selling prices to increase their returns.

Harris says a study of six herds involved in the program for three years or more demonstrates good results.

The calves were weaned early, 62 days before the sale and fed a high energy ration. They averaged 468 pounds at weaning. They consumed an average of 6.2 pounds of grain per head per day, plus silage, for the 62 days.

The average gain was 1.9 pounds per day for a total gain of 118 pounds per animal. The total cost of feed, labor and veterinary costs, but not interests, was $58.95 over the 62 days. The average cost per pound of gain was 50 cents.

To work out the actual return, the calves were valued at $88.50 per hundred pounds (top price for steers at Ponoka, October 4, 1985), for a total of $414.18. The preconditioned calves weighed 586 pounds and at $90.20 (provincial average price for preconditioned calves) this amounted to $528.57.

To get the net value, subtract the cost of preconditioning, $58.95, and $3 for death loss, for a final figure of $466.62.

The net value represents $52.44 more than the unconditioned calves would have brought in October.

(Cont'd)

Make the most of preconditioning (cont'd)

"It is this type of performance that has kept these producers interested in the ACPF program," says Harris. "However, to obtain gains like these six herds, good care and management are necessary. The secret is getting the calves up to six to eight pounds of grain per head, per day without causing digestive problems.

"Silage based rations are excellent because it can be a complete feed which includes roughage. When you consider the added advantage of the cows going into winter in better condition, these ranchers are making double the profits of many of their neighbors."

For further information on preconditioning program contact a district agriculturist, veterinarian or auction sale manager.

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Contact: Brian Harris
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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Is record keeping a waste of time?

Farm record keeping can be equated to driving a car, says an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

Depending on vehicle, road and weather conditions it can be a profitable trip or a near disaster, says regional economist George Monner, in Fairview.

"Farming without records is like driving in a blinding snow storm," he says. "You can't see where you are going, you can't see where you have been and you don't know how you are going to get there. If you are driving a tank (a tank being a farm with no debt and a good cash flow) you may make it through.

"Using historic financial statements to farm is like driving while looking in the rear view mirror," says Monner. "If the road is straight and there are no major obstructions or detours you may, with practice, make it through.

"Farming using projected financial statements is like driving with good visibility. You can see far enough ahead to take evasive action when necessary."

Monner says today's farm economy is like a highway construction zone.

"Now we are entering a section of the road that is under repair. There are many detours and obstructions. Will you make it through?"

The economist says the analogy helps emphasize the value of record keeping. Farmers who do keep financial records should review the system to determine what it is providing. And a farmer or rancher who doesn't have a record keeping system should give serious thought to establishing one, says Monner.

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Is record keeping a waste of time? (cont'd)

Financial record keeping carries the image of being complex and difficult and irrelevant to day to day operations, but that impression is misleading says the economist.

"Farmers must realize two things before they will spend time on records," he says. "The most profitable use of time may be analysing the farm's financial situation, and record keeping need not be difficult."

If a farm family decides it wants help setting up a record keeping system there are several sources available.

They can see an accountant who will not only help set up a bookkeeping system but also prepare the farm financial statements provided they have the proper information. Monners says the farmer should ask about the fee for this additional service.

Also the farmer can take a record keeping course such as those offered by Alberta Agriculture and local colleges or take a course in analysing the farm operation.

"There are some excellent courses offered by some of the agriculture colleges and by Alberta Agriculture," says Monner. " The instructor in some of the courses will even spend time to help you apply what you learn in the classroom to your own farm situation."

Monner referred to a comment from Dr. William Boast, a leading management consultant from Colorado, who said in a recent address:

"This is a time of great successes and great failures. Some businesses and some farmers are seeing their greatest growth and profits; some businesses and some farmers are going under. The choices we make will determine which group we join," said Boast.

"Records and their analysis will give an edge to those operations who use them over those who do not," says Monner. "Record keeping is not a waste of time unless you fail to follow through and get the most out of your effort."

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Contact: George Monner
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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Productivity from farm planning

Although it may sound simple, farm planning is really the cornerstone of making any farm or ranch operation a success, says an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

"It is really the backbone of any operation," says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "And yet many people don't appreciate what planning can do for them."

At the farm business management booth at the World Plowing Match in Olds this year, economists were often asked "What do you mean by farm planning?"

"The usual answer was that farm management economists can help farmers plan their farm strategies to achieve the results that farmers have set as their goals," says Edwards.

"Most questioners were apparently satisfied by the answer but they could have learned much more with more questions. Not that there is anything wrong with the question or the answer, but farm planning is too important and complex to explain with a simple question and answer.

"Many farmers are not aware of the study or discipline of farm management so they do not realize that important principles, tools and methods are available to help them make choices and decisions with the highest probability of success," says Edwards. "Farm planning primarily is making choices and decisions: selecting the most profitable alternative from all the alternatives being considered."

Planning is also organizing resources with the aim to produce products that will have the highest probability of maximizing profits, if that is the farmer's goal. Planning is the most basic management function as it includes deciding on a course of action and then taking action - doing what was planned. This requires acquiring and organizing the necessary resources, including financing, to put the plan into operation.

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Productivity from farm planning (cont'd)

"Using recommended planning tools and methods is a continuous process - not something to do on a stormy day and then forget," says the economist. "The plan itself will be changed as the manager (planner) gets new information from continuous observation and analysis as the plan is implemented. The important ingredient is not the PLAN, but the planning process - informed thinking and decision making using established economic principles. The planning process provides a systematic and organized procedure that simplifies making choices and decisions."

"Even the best planning methods skillfully applied cannot guarantee success, but it certainly improves the probability of achieving success. Planning should be done by all the people affected by the plan, not only the manager," says Edwards. "On the family farm all the members and employees take part and contribute to planning with benefit to the attitude, behavior and understanding of the group. This presents an opportunity to learn the planning process from the skills of the leader (manager) for better management in the future. Management skills as well as production skills can be learned from experienced members of the farm family."

Planning is not a dull, stodgy exercise in futility. It is an important and lively part of management.

"At its best it requires the highest degree of creativity from the manager and other contributors to the process. Innovative and entrepreneurial skills can contribute by discovery of opportunities which can be included in the alternatives considered for the farm business.

"Most farm businesses could benefit from better farm planning," says Edwards.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Phone: (403) 427-2121
Print Media Branch

July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Field Day season in bloom

Although it's a busy time of year, farmers and ranchers should try to squeeze at least one field day or tour into their schedule this summer to see what's new in crop and livestock research.

Organized by Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta, the field days cover everything from sunflower production, to wheat, barley, faba beans and wild rice plots, beef cattle production and what sheep are doing for range management.

In southern Alberta, safflower producers will be interested in a July 23 tour at the Jerry Kubik farm at Wrentham, south of Lethbridge. They'll be able to look at both irrigated and dryland safflower management programs. To pre-register contact Jerry Kubik at 222-3968.

Ranchers and other range managers will be interested in the three-day range management tour based at the Stavely Range Station, starting July 24. For information on the camping-type tour contact range supervisor Bob Wroe in Lacombe at 423-4214.

The University of Alberta will be sponsoring its popular Ranch Day at Kinsella Ranch July 25. It's a full day of looking at the latest research in beef production and other related topics. For details contact Dr. Bob Hardin at 432-3235.

In the Trochu/Three Hills area, there is a field day, July 29, looking at crops varieties, weeds and chemical trials, says district agriculturist Scott Meers.

Leaving from the Three Hills municipal district yard at 1:15 p.m. the tour will look at variety plots of wheat, barley, flax, rape, oats and triticale, along with an example of a herbicide application to control wild oats. Meers also wants to show farmers examples of scentless chamomile, a perennial weed that can become a problem. For details contact Meers at 443-5503.

(Cont'd)

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Field day season in bloom (cont'd)

There are several field days slated for July 30 so a farmer will have to be selective about his area of interest.

The University of Alberta plant science department is offering a wheat research field day at the Edmonton research station, at 116 Street and 68 Avenue.

Beginning at 12:30 p.m., participants will look at breeding, varieties and integrated crop management (ICM), involving spring and winter wheat. For further information contact Kurt Kutschera, 434-4969.

Also July 30 the Alberta Agriculture field crops branch in Lacombe will sponsor a field day at its research farm, just south of Lacombe. Getting underway at 1 p.m., it will offer an overview of the work being carried out at the farm. Another similar day is scheduled for later in August.

For southern Alberta pulse growers, a tour is planned July 30 at 1:30 p.m. leaving from the district agriculturist office in Bow Island. Farmers will have a look at irrigated fieldbean, pea and lentil fields, bean and pea varieties, disease control trials and fertility trials in pulse crops.

For further information or to pre-register contact Ruth McMorris at 545-2233, Carole Rex at 223-9611 or Blair Roth at 381-5127.

July 31 the U of A is sponsoring an Integrated Crop Management field-day at Fuhr Farms, on Highway 16, west of Spruce Grove. The day will look at Neepawa and Oslo spring wheat varieties at multiple management levels. Contact Dr. K.G. Briggs at 432-4502 for details.

Near Olds, August 6, farmers will be able to have a look at research work involving several crops. The research plots are about two miles south of Olds College. For further information contact Dr. Jim Helm in Lacombe at 782-4641.

Sunflower growers will be interested in the August 8 sunflower tour at the Tom Droog farm, south of Highway 3, near the Foremost Road, west of Bow Island. Contact Ruth McMorris, at 545-2233 or Carole Rex at 223-9611 for details.

(Cont'd)

Field days are in bloom (cont'd)

August 12 at the John Prentice farm, north of Calmar, a field day is planned to look at regional crop trials on a variety of crops, says district agriculturist Elmer Bittner. Getting underway at 10 a.m. the field day will also look at some chemical weed control plots. For further information contact Bittner at 986-2251.

Also August 12, in the Vermilion area, a field day is planned to look at research plots including cereals, oil seeds, specialty crops, peas, lentils and faba beans, says district agriculturist Josie Van Lent. The program gets underway at 1 p.m. at the Alvin Throndson farm at Clandonald. For more information contact Van Lent at 853-2811.

There will be another big field day August 14 at the Alberta Agriculture research farm at Lacombe. Similar to the July 30 event, it will offer farmers a first hand look at the research work being done with several crop varieties. For details contact Dr. Jim Helm at 782-4641.

The month wraps up with a field day near Athabasca, August 30, looking at the relatively new wild rice crop grown in the north central region. There will be a formal discussion on wild rice production followed by boat trips on Jackfish Lake to look at rice being harvested.

For details contact district agriculturist Harvey Yoder at 623-5218.

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July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Markerville girl wins scholarship

A Red Deer area girl, Leanne Lemke, of Markerville has won the Petro Canada 4-H Leadership Award for Alberta.

The $1,000 scholarship is given out annually to a 4-H'er in each of the 10 provinces, says Valerie Runyon, of the provincial scholarship program with the Alberta Agriculture 4-H branch in Edmonton.

Lemke was awarded the scholarship for her essay on citizenship. Besides her achievements in the Rangeland 4-H Beef Club, Lemke has been actively involved in volunteer work in her community, says Runyon.

She was chosen to represent her school at the United Nations Seminar on International Affairs and the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program.

The scholarship winner will be attending the University of Lethbridge this fall, studying for a bachelor of education degree majoring in mathematics.

For more information on the Petro Canada 4-H Leadership Award contact a regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact: Valerie Runyon
427-2541

July 21, 1986
For immediate release

Farmers' Market Awareness Week planned

Farmers' markets around Alberta will be in a celebrating mood in early August as they participate in the first Farmers' Market Awareness Week.

Running August 5 to 9, the week being marked by the more than 110 farmers' markets in Alberta, is aimed at increasing public awareness of the economic and social contributions the markets make to the community.

Organized by Alberta Agriculture, agri-food development branch in Edmonton, awareness week activities will feature everything from heritage day themes, to music programs, ethnic cultural events, to special breakfasts and barbecues, depending on activities planned by local market committees.

The week will be kicked off in Edmonton July 29 with Alberta Agriculture and city of Edmonton officials attending a special barbecue at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre northeast of the city.

Organized in co-operation with the Edmonton Area Vegetable Growers and the farmers' market program, the barbecue will feature a display of products by various markets from across Alberta.

A dozen years ago there were only four farmers' markets in the province. These privately owned operations were in Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge.

In 1974 Alberta Agriculture announced a program to aid the development of markets throughout the province. Although it was originally planned to support markets in communities of at least 5,000 people, interest in the social aspects and economic advantages lead to the support being offered to even the smaller villages and hamlets.

(Cont'd)

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Farmers' Market Awareness Week planned (cont'd)

Lorraine Rea, farmers' market consultant with the department in Edmonton, says in the first full season of the program 16 markets opened. In 1975 that grew to 35 markets and today there are more than 110 farmers' markets in Alberta.

The markets are organized by individuals or groups such as agricultural societies, town and municipal councils or exhibition associations.

Rea says usually the markets are operated by a manager and a market committee, with the support of a sponsor such as the ag society or town council.

Following the kick off in late July, Calgary Farmers' Own Farmers' Market, in co-operation with the surrounding southern markets will hold a special luncheon, July 2, at the market at 6040 Centre Street S.E.

Again Alberta Agriculture and Calgary city officials are expected to participate in the program at the beef-on-a-bun luncheon.

During awareness week several markets have developed programs to mark the occasion.

In Stony Plain, the market which has grown to 40 vendors this year from 25 last year, will be using the theme "Getting Back to the Basics" as part of its celebration.

Along with fresh garden produce, the market will also host displays of antique equipment and appliances, demonstration of wool spinning and quilting, horse and buggy rides and a petting zoo.

Edmonton's City Market will host a Dim Sum Breakfast during the week. The breakfast which is a Chinese tradition will be made by various Chinese restaurants near the 97 Street market.

In Leduc that week they have planned a barbecue with a giant birthday cake to be cut, while Beaumont is marking awareness week in conjunction with its fifth anniversary celebration.

Alberta Beach is teaming awareness week with Heritage Day celebrations, which will include rides around the community in a specially-built train that can carry up to 25 children at a time.

(Cont'd)

Farmers' Market Awareness Week planned (cont'd)

The farmers' market program is administered by Alberta Agriculture through the agri-food development branch. The branch mainly acts as a support to markets by providing seminars, publications, supplies, grant monies, newsletters, calendars, map brochures and other promotional material. Aiding the government is a 14 member advisory committee made up of seven government representatives and seven active market people.

For further information on the farmers' market program contact Lorraine Rea at the agri-food development branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bob Prather
or
Lorraine Rea
427-7366

AGRI-NEWS

July 28, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Members named to review panel.....1

Newsletter cuts computer fog.....3

Vegetable hotline in operation.....4

Realized net incomes expected to increase.....5

Top home study students earn scholarships.....7

Beware of buying unproven sows.....9

CNE scholarship goes to Airdrie girl.....11

31 clubs compete in 4-H beef heifer show.....12

What is standing hay worth?.....14

To dry or not to dry - that is the question.....16

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

Members named to review panel

The seven members of a panel to review the Alberta crop insurance program have been named by Associate Minister of Agriculture Shirley Cripps.

The four producers and three MLA's will join chairman Dallas Schmidt to form an eight-member panel conducting a "thorough analysis of all aspects of crop insurance policy". The panel will make recommendations leading to the development of a more effective insurance program for Alberta farmers.

The Alberta Crop Insurance Review Panel was created earlier this year with Schmidt, a former agriculture minister, named as chairman.

In a late-July announcement individuals were appointed to serve as panel members. They include four producers: C.S. (Johnny) Vos of Keg River, Eric Sikora of Warspite, Robert F. Hymas of Standard and Jerry Thacker of Burdett. The MLA members of the panel are Nigel Pengelly of Innisfail, Glen Clegg of Dunvegan and Robert (Butch) Fischer of Wainwright.

The review panel has been asked by Cripps to specifically look at several aspects. It has been asked to assess the level of crop production risk experienced by Alberta producers; to determine the producers' ability to offset that risk; to determine the ability of the existing crop insurance program to offset producers' crop production risk; to overcome identified weaknesses in the current insurance program through the development of alternative approaches; and to assess the merit of more closely integrating crop insurance, grain stabilization and cash advance programs.

(Cont'd)

Members named to review panel (cont'd)

"In the past, shortcomings in the crop insurance program have been dealt with through the implementation of ad hoc modifications of existing guidelines," says Cripps. "We want now to come up with a sound, effective crop insurance program which will protect our province's producers under all conditions, without requiring such emergency measures."

The review panel will carry out its mandate by holding public forms throughout the province to obtain the views of individual producers, farm organizations and other interested parties. It will also accept written briefs and commission research projects.

"It's very important that the public be made aware of these forums," says Cripps. "We want to find out what farmers want in a crop insurance program. Crop insurance is provided for the benefit of producers; their views and opinions on the subject are vital if we're to develop a plan that really works."

Details on the review forums will be announced later.

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Contact: Bard Haddrell
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Dr. A.O. Olson
427-1957

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

Newsletter cuts computer fog

What is the best computer to buy?"; "Can I do bookkeeping with a spreadsheet?"; "What is a spreadsheet?"; "What is the formula to calculate loan payments?"; "How can I access the Computer Bulletin Board in Olds?".

Questions like these about the use of computers on the farm continue to increase, according to the Management Technology Unit of Alberta Agriculture in Olds.

To keep pace with this ever-changing technology, the unit is in the seventh year of distributing its free, monthly newsletter "Compu-Farm".

Compu-Farm includes reviews on farm accounting and record keeping packages, articles on the pros and cons of newly released software, and gives an honest opinion of new developments in the computer world.

While the target audience is primarily Alberta farmers, there are more than 2,000 subscribers to Compu-Farm from Canada, the United States and overseas.

Anyone interested in receiving a free subscription, can call Beth Lausen or Bruce Waldie at (403)556-4240, or write: Compu-Farm, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

Anyone owning modems interested in receiving the newsletter may leave a message on the Compu-Farm Computer Bulletin Board System by calling (403)556-4104 after business hours or weekends.

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Contact: Bruce Waldie
556-4240

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

Vegetable hotline in operation

Consumers looking for dilling cukes, sweet corn, raspberries or other fresh produce grown in Alberta can call a toll-free number to find the nearest market gardener with the product.

"The Produce Information Line operated by Alberta Market Gardeners Association is in operation again this year, says association president Wayne Doan of Red Deer.

"It's as simple as making a phone call, no matter where you live, to find out what's available and where to find it," says Doan. "The line is open five days a week and there is no charge."

More than 75 market gardeners, members of the market gardeners association, are participating in this year's vegetable hotline. Each participating gardener provides the information line with weekly up-to-date information on what is available from his farm.

By calling The Produce Information Line number, 1-800-332-1291, a person contacts Monica Valois, who is manning the phone until September 30. The line is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday.

With market gardeners reporting from the Peace River region, Fort McMurray, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and many points in between, Valois can direct the caller to the nearest member market gardener selling the produce needed. She also can offer ball park figures on product prices and can advise whether it's a pick-your-own operation or if the fruits and vegetables are available at the stand.

For further information about the market gardeners association or for a membership application, contact Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Agriculture Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0.

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Contact: Lloyd Hausher
362-3391
Wayne Doan
340-5473 or 742-5900

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

Realized net incomes expected to increase

Aided by major government programs, which reduced operating costs and provided significant cash income through grants, Alberta farmers should have a few more dollars left in their pockets at year end, according to Alberta Agriculture predictions.

Although they are only estimates, department analysts expect realized net income will be up about 14 per cent over 1985, to $667 million, this year.

Realized net income is what's left after all operating expenses and depreciation have been deducted from total cash receipts and the value of home grown products consumed by the farmer.

It does not account for changes in inventory held by the farmers.

The actual gross earnings by farmers and ranchers in 1986 are expected to be down only about 3.1 per cent from last year while operating expenses and depreciation charges are expected to decline substantially.

"This decline in expenses coupled with continuing government program payments should result in increased realized net incomes," says Nithi Govindasamy with statistics branch.

Net farm incomes, which account for changes in farmer-held inventories, actually increased by 41 per cent in 1985 over 1984, in spite of poor growing conditions, which affected both crop and livestock production.

Statistics available from the department show while total receipts, including the sale of crops and livestock, were down in 1985, net farm income actually increased $118 million. Net farm incomes went from $285 million in 1984 to $403 million in 1985.

Payments from the Western Grain Stabilization Program, crop insurance and several provincial and federal government assistance programs helped to increase net farm income.

(Cont'd)

Realized farm incomes expected to increase (cont'd)

Total farm cash receipts in 1985 actually declined by 2.5 per cent to $3.866 billion over 1984. But operating expenses also declined 1.2 per cent as a result of provincial government programs reducing input costs, says the statistician.

"Additions to grain inventories in 1985 also contributed to net farm income increasing 41 per cent over 1984," he says.

A look at last year's figures show that crop receipts dropped by 5.7 per cent from $2.103 billion in 1984 to $1.983 billion in 1985.

Livestock receipts, however, were up by just more than one per cent going from $1.858 billion in 1984 to $1.880 billion in 1985.

Against the incomes, operating expenses in 1985 were estimated at $2.666 billion, a decline of 1.2 per cent from 1984.

Although the department expects to have a better picture later in the year, total farm cash receipts in 1986 are forecast to decline only 3.1 per cent to $3.748 billion.

Total crop receipts are projected to be about $195 million lower than in 1985, with wheat receipts declining by about $90 million. Barley and canola receipts are also expected to decline by $7 million and $39 million, respectively.

Total livestock receipts in 1986 are expected to increase four per cent to $1.955 billion. Livestock Drought Assistance payments and Red Meat Interim Insurance Program payments are expected to raise cattle receipts 5.7 per cent to $1.280 billion. Similarly, government program payments are expected to increase hog receipts 4.3 per cent to $264 million.

Looking at expenses, it is expected a further decline of 7 per cent to $2.479 billion in total operating expenses will occur in 1986.

For more details on farm cash receipts and expenses, a copy of the summary is available from the Alberta Agriculture Statistics Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

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Contact: Nithi Govindasamy
427-4006

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

Top home-study students earn scholarships

The two top students, out of more than 3,000 in the province to take a home study course in crop protection, have received $500 scholarships.

Gloria Adamson, of Standard and Bert Bystrom of Sylvan Lake each were presented with the awards after scoring 98 per cent and 97 per cent respectively, on final examinations. Elanco sponsored Adamson's award and the United Farmers of Alberta provided the Bystrom scholarship.

Adamson is a senior elevator clerk at the Chancelor Alberta Cargill Elevator, while Bystrom is a beef and grain producer.

The home study course in crop protection is just one of those offered by Alberta Agriculture.

Keith Price, head of the department's crop protection branch in Edmonton, says the Crop Protection 86 course, offered last winter, focused on integrated pest management and gave students a chance to learn how to deal with all pests affecting crops.

"I learned as much by writing the final examination as I did from taking the course," says Adamson. "Completing the course has given me a great deal of confidence in dealing with customers. I keep the course material on hand and find answers for the farmers."

Speaking for Elanco, Harold Hamre, national sales manager says it is important for farmers to be as fully informed as possible. He says his company is pleased to support the efforts of Alberta Agriculture and programs like Crop Protection 86 which help farmers meet future challenges.

Bystrom plans to use the scholarship to help his son attend Red Deer College this fall. He says information learned in Crop Protection 86 has already helped in his farming operation.

(Cont'd)

Two home study students earn scholarships (cont'd)

Lee Olmstead of UFA says his co-operative is pleased to be able to recognize Bystrom's efforts and support the education of a future generation of Alberta farmers.

For more information on this course contact Keith Price or the home study office, at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Keith Price
427-5330

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

Beware of buying unproven sows

Just as it is important for the hog producer to use tested boars in the breeding program, he should also be looking for a proven sow breed, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Art Lange, supervisor of swine improvement, says a farmer can lose hundreds and even thousands of dollars by introducing a sow breed or breed combination into his herd, that has not been proven productive.

"It can generally be agreed that the sow's primary purpose is to raise as many healthy and heavy piglets as possible to weaning," says Lange. "It is important then to find a breed or combination of breeds to achieve this end. The results of many studies show that the white breeds (Yorkshire, Landrace, Lacombe) are the most prolific and wean the heaviest pigs; with the colored breeds (Hampshire or Duroc) being less productive in these traits."

Canadian Sow Productivity and Management Program results show:

BREED	LITTERS ON RECORD	PIGS WEANED/ LITTER	PIGS WEANED PER SOW/ YEAR	21 DAY LITTER WEIGHT
Yorkshire	2,166	8.8	19.4	49.1 kg
Landrace	1,632	8.5	18.7	52.6 kg
Lacombe	294	8.2	18.8	43.3 kg
Hampshire	69	7.6	16.8	50.7 kg
Duroc	205	7.5	16.4	42.9 kg

Sow productivity can be enhanced by using a crossbred which gives hybrid vigor (heterosis) in these traits. Lines within the white breeds which are best in these traits should be crossed to enhance them further. This is reflected in the results for the "commercial" sows in the above program, most of which are a cross in the white breeds as follows:

Commercial	6,748	9.0	20.7	53.4 kg

(Cont'd)

Beware of unproven sow breeds (cont'd)

Lange says the financial difference between the top and bottom in a commerical herd can be dramatic.

"The figures show that a 100-sow commercial herd, with 20.7 pigs weaned per sow per year, would wean 2,070 pigs per year. A 100-sow purebred Duroc herd with an average of 16.4 pigs weaned per sow per year, would only wean 1,640 pigs. It would require an extra 26 Duroc sows to produce 2,070 pigs."

The supervisor says at a sow cost of $720 per year, it would cost an extra $18,720 per year to wean the same number of pigs using Duroc sows versus crossbred (commercial) sows.

"Depending upon which herds are enrolled in the program these averages do not necessarily represent Canadian breed averages, but they do indicate quite wide breed differences in sow productivity," says Lange.

A farmer needs to beware of buying unproven females for the herd.

"You should know where potential sows for your herd fit into the scheme before purchasing," he says. "At $720 for each additional sow in the herd, even five extra sows means $3,600 in added and unnecessary cost."

For tips on sound breeding stock selection techniques, consult the pamphlet entitled "Swine Improvement Programs and Procedures" available from local district agriculturist offices or the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Information can also be obtained from the regional swine specialists or the pork industry branch in Edmonton, 427-5319.

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Contact: A.J. Lange
427-5319

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

CNE scholarship goes to Airdrie girl

Tracy Hanson of Airdrie has won the 1986 Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship for Alberta.

Hanson is one of 10 delegates from across Canada who will be presented with the award at a ceremony at the CNE in Toronto in late August.

The $1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to one student from each province who has completed at least one year in a degree program in agriculture, home economics, agricultural engineering or veterinary science.

Applicants are considered on the basis of 4-H involvement, community participation, leadership skills and school marks.

Hanson will be entering her third year of study in general agriculture at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She was a member of the Irricana 4-H Country Riders for five years and the Irricana 4-H Beef and Photo Club for four years. She has been a member of the Edmonton 4-H Alumni since 1984.

The CNE scholarship is administered by the Canadian 4-H Council and is sponsored by the Toronto exhibition.

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Contact: Valerie Runyon
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July 28, 1986
For immediate release

31 clubs compete in 4-H beef heifer show

Three brothers, belonging to a north central Alberta 4-H beef club, dominated the winners circle earlier this month at the 10th annual Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show.

Jay Wildman, of the Sangudo Beef Club, west of Edmonton, took first place in the judging competition, while his brother Brett Wildman was named top showman and another brother Kirk Wildman showed the reserve grand champion crossbred heifer.

Thirty-one clubs ranging from Peace River to Calgary, were involved in the 10th annual heifer show and judging competition at Bashaw, which is designed to encourage involvement in the 4-H beef breeding project, says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

"Its goal is to enhance members' knowledge of showing, fitting and judging beef cattle," he says.

Eighty-five competitors were involved in the judging competiton in which Jay Wildman took first place and Paul Kotowich of the St. Paul Multi club took second. The St. Paul team took top honors in team judging followed by the Spruce Grove beef team.

Twenty-one teams took part in the team grooming competition with a team from Okotoks placing first, followed by a the team from Sangudo.

The show had freshman and sophomore classes which combined points for showmanship ability and conformation of the show animal. Forty-two members participated with David Petterson from Spruce Grove Beef Club placing first in the freshman class and Dalyn Sjogern from Okotoks Beef Club coming second.

In the sophomore class, Luke Jones from Okotoks Beef club took top honors followed by Shelly Stewart from Crowfoot Beef and Heifer Club.

(Cont'd)

31 clubs compete in 4-H beef heifer show (cont'd)

Ninety-four 4-H'ers participated in the showmanship class, with Brett Wildman from Sangudo named top showman and Lorraine Cox from Armena beef taking second.

The club herdsmanship competition which is based on neatness and cleanliness of stall area was awarded to the St. Paul Multi Club.

In the purebred, recorded and crossbred conformation classes, 98 entries were displayed and evaluated.

Supreme Grand Champion Purebred was exhibited by Dalyn Sjogren from Okotoks Beef Club with Jody Fox from Delburne Beef Club displaying reserve. Supreme Grand Champion Crossbred was shown by Shelly Ann Werenka from the Sangudo Beef Club followed by Kirk Wildman from Sangudo with the reserve.

Major sponsors of this provincial 4-H event were the Bashaw Agricultural Society, CIBA-Geigy of Canada Ltd., Cargill Grain Co. Ltd. and Alberta Agriculture 4-H Branch.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

What is standing hay worth?

Pricing a standing crop of hay requires a sharp eye and a sharper pencil says a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture.

The cost of putting it up, yield, quality and expected selling price are the key issues that should be considered, says Garth Nickorick, with the farm business management branch in Olds.

The value of standing hay should equal the market price for hay less the cost of cutting, baling, stacking and a risk allowance.

A survey of custom rates indicate mowing and conditioning at $3 to $4 a ton, baling (square) $8 to $9 a ton and stacking $7 to $9 a ton. The total cost of putting up the hay is $18 to $22 a ton. If the present price of hay is $60 a ton in the stack, $40 a ton would be the value of the standing hay. This ignores the risk of weather losses, says Nickorick. An allowance of 10 per cent for this concern adds $6 a ton to the cost, lowering the standing value to $34 a ton.

On a 60 pound square-bale basis, $34 a ton converts to $1.03 per bale. For 1200 pound round bales, it is $20 per bale.

"To avoid all the perils of yield estimation, weather delays, marketing and to ensure a fixed cash return, rental by the acre may be considered," says Nickorick. "Since more risk is transfered to the renter, he may be willing to pay less. With less risk, the owner may accept a lower rent."

Using a 15 per cent allowance or $10 a ton, the rental would be $24 a ton or $48 an acre on a two-ton per acre crop.

(Cont'd)

What is standing hay worth?

"Roughly, the value of standing hay in the field is 55 to 65 per cent of the current hay price in the stack, on a per ton basis," says the economist. "On a per acre basis, use 45 to 55 per cent of the current hay price. These values will vary from year to year and area to area."

For more information, contact Garth Nickorick at the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, or call (403)556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

July 28, 1986
For immediate release

To dry or not to dry - that is the question!

Above average rainfall in July, in most areas of Alberta, may lead some farmers to wonder if they should add a grain dryer to their harvesting system.

While decisions need to be made on an individual farm basis, a process has been developed to help weigh the pros and cons of making the investment.

To assist farmers, a new publication will be available in early August from Alberta Agriculture, called "Economics of Grain Drying". Craig Edwards, farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says the publication demonstrates a useful method for comparing different grain drying systems.

Worksheets are included with an example to show a step-by-step method of listing the advantages and disadvantages of adding a drying system. The expected added costs and added returns from the drying system are summarized on a partial budget form to determine the expected total advantages or disadvantages.

The same kind of estimates can be made separately for several different systems. The costs and benefits of each can be compared by using the partial budget as a decision-making tool.

Worksheets to estimate annual cash flow changes resulting from the capital investment in a drying system are included. Changes in cash flow from one drying system costing $30,000 are entered as an example to show how the worksheet can be used.

"The most challenging part of the budget analysis is determining realistic cost and return estimates from investing in the drying system," says Edwards who authored the publication. "Farmers estimating their own expected costs and returns between different systems will find the check-list on the partial budget worksheets useful in reminding them of possible benefits or added costs."

(Cont'd)

To dry or not to dry - that is the question! (cont'd)

"Using the budgeting technique for testing, on paper, the alternative solutions to a problem, provides a look into the future and an opportunity to make the best decision," he says. "Writing down the results in a formal budget is almost a necessity because most managers can't remember all the estimated costs and returns for the many alternatives they are considering."

"Economics of Grain Drying" (Agdex 825-21) will be available in early August from Alberta Agriculture district extension offices or the print media branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Craig W. Edwards
556-4248

AGRI-NEWS

SEP 1 6 1986

August 4, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Dates set for crop insurance hearings.....1
Precautions needed in flood clean up.....3
Little change in custom seeding rates.....5
Office dedicated to Art Wilson.....6
Rates for herbicide application unchanged.....9
Fertilizer application rates announced.....10
Wild rice field day planned.....11
Proper freezing offers good results.....13
Community services section head appointed.....15
More funds available for summer work.....16
Environment centre plans field day.....17
Brooks field day planned August 29.....18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Dates set for crop insurance hearings

Alberta farmers, either directly or through their organizations, will have an opportunity this fall to make their views on crop insurance known to a provincial review panel, during a series of public hearings.

In September there will be formal public hearings in four provincial centres to receive written briefs, followed by another round of more informal meetings after harvest. Written briefs will not be required at the informal hearings but will be accepted.

Farmers are urged to catch the Crop Insurance Review Panel at any of the sessions to offer input on how the crop insurance program can be improved.

The review panel, chaired by former agriculture minister Dallas Schmidt, was created earlier this year by Alberta Agriculture Associate Minister Shirley Cripps.

The eight-member panel will be looking at ways to make the crop insurance program more responsive to the needs of farmers.

Four public hearings will be held at Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton and Peace River in September, to receive written briefs from farm organizations, agricultural service boards, agricultural development committees, farmers and other interested parties.

These hearings will be held during the first two weeks of September as follows:

Lethbridge - September 2 at 1 p.m. and September 3 at 9 a.m. at the Lethbridge Lodge on Scenic Drive.

Calgary - September 4 and 5 starting at 9 a.m. each day at the Village Park Inn, 1804 Crowchild Trail, N.W.

Peace River - September 9 and 10 starting at 9 a.m. each day at the Travellers Motor Hotel.

Edmonton - September 11 and 12 starting at 9 a.m. each day, at the Convention Inn Hotel, 4404 Calgary Trail.

(Cont'd)

Dates set for crop insurance hearings (cont'd)

Pre-registration is encouraged for those planning to make a presentation at the first round of hearings. If possible, advise the panel at which meeting the brief will be presented and mail a copy of the brief to: Crop Insurance Review Panel, Room 306, Third Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Or call 422-5876.

Once harvest is just about over, less formal meetings will be held throughout the province. Individual farmers are encouraged to attend these meetings to present their views. Dates of these meetings have not been confirmed.

To assist farmers in making their presentations a background paper outlining the principles of insurance and the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance program is available from district agriculturists or the review panel.

At the informal meetings discussion between the panel and producers is intended with the producers not only giving their views and concerns, but being asked to comment on suggestions from the review panel on possible changes in the program.

Along with Schmidt as chairman, panel members include four producers, Johnny Vos of Keg River, Eric Sikora of Warspite, Robert Hymas of Standard, Jerry Thacker of Burdett and three MLA's, Nigel Pengelly of Innisfail, Glen Clegg of Dunvegan and Robert (Butch) Fischer of Wainwright.

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Contact: Ray Stemp
or
Bruce Jeffery
422-5876

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Precautions needed in flood clean up

Anyone affected by even a small amount of flooding on their property, should follow some basic guidelines, not only for comfort but for safety reasons.

Experts say there are a few tips to follow to help get a flooded basement back in shape and property owners shouldn't take any chances with contaminated water sources.

Archie Archampong, a water engineer with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton says domestic wells need to be pumped out and treated after they have been contaminated by surface water.

Regardless of how deep the well is, Archampong says pump out a flooded well through an outside tap before using the water. Any water to be consumed should be boiled at least 15 minutes before drinking.

And even if it has been boiled, this water should not be given to infants under six months of age for fear of nitrate poisoning. The systems of older children and adults can resist nitrate poisoning.

The risk of poisoning also applies to young livestock says the engineer. Although it is difficult to protect sheep and cattle on pasture from the hazard, controlled livestock such as infant pigs, chicks and even young and adult horses should be given a fresh water supply.

If a silt problem is encountered, allow the well to settle for one day and pump out the water intermittently for an additional day. If the silt problem persists the homeowner should get professional help because of the risk of damaging the pump.

Even if the water looks good, the contaminated well should be shock chlorinated to kill harmful bacteria. The publication "Shock Chlorination and Control of Iron Bacteria" (FS716-D12), available from Alberta Agriculture, explains the process of introducing chlorine to water.

After all these measures have been taken, Archampong advises a sample of the water should be taken to the nearest health unit for analysis to ensure it is safe to drink.

(Cont'd)

Precautions needed in flood clean up (cont'd)

In clean-up operations around the home, all water in the basement must be treated as sewage.

All food, even canned goods or preserves in sealers, that have come in contact with flood water should be thrown out.

Basement water can be removed by using a sump pump, a wet vacuum cleaner or by mopping.

Sanitizers, mildew control chemicals and deodorizers should be applied, if possible, to both sides of carpets and anywhere water has touched the walls. Several products are available including Ultrafresh, Bano, Fibresan, Microban, Aquasan, Top Clean, Lemon Tree and Liquid Pine. These are available from janitorial supply companies, druggists and chemists.

When any of these products are applied the basement should be kept well ventilated.

To speed up the drying process, Archampong suggests turning on the furnace and switch the blower fan to continuous operation. Also keep as many windows open as possible.

For further information on dealing with flood problems or a copy of the shock chlorination brochure, contact a district agriculturist or one of the following regional engineering staff:

Orin Kenzie, Lethbridge, 381-5112; Rich Smith, Airdrie, 948-5101; Ken Williamson, Red Deer, 340-5324; Larry Wasylik, Vermilion, 853-8109; Bob Buchanan, Barrhead, 674-8253 and Bill Cornwell, Fairview, 835-2291.

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Contact: Regional engineer
(your area)

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Little change in custom seeding rates

The 1986 "going rates" for custom grain and oilseed seeding have been announced with few surprises from last year, says an Alberta Agriculture economist.

Garth Nickorick, farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says the charges by custom operators are largely unchanged from the 1985 levels.

The survey includes ground and aerial actual seeding charges as provided by 60 custom operators throughout the province.

Seeding with press drills, hoe drills and air seeders in the south and central portion of the province ranged from $2.80 - $8 per acre with the most common rate quoted $5 - $7 per acre. Northern area rates were in the $3.50 - $5 per acre range.

Rates for seeding sugar beets and sunflowers were quoted in the $12 - $15 per acre range.

Seeding with aircraft used primarily for oilseeds, alfalfa and grass seed was in the $3 - $5 per acre range.

For more information or for a copy of the survey, contact Garth Nickorick, Farm Business Management Branch, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO or phone (403)556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Office dedicated to Art Wilson

A new $285,000 administration building at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre will be dedicated in the memory of a long-time Alberta Agriculture employee, credited with being the developer of the 750 acre nursery.

At ceremonies later this month the new office will be officially named the A.M. (Art) Wilson Building, recognizing the 28-year career of the one time Vermilion teacher who went on to become director of the department's plant industry division. Wilson died in 1983.

Kathaleen Wilson, his widow, and Alberta Agriculture Deputy Minister Ben McEwen will unveil the plaque at the August 19 ceremonies dedicating the building in Dr. Wilson's honor "because of his outstanding contribution to agriculture."

Following the 3 p.m. ceremony there will be a tour of the facilities and a reception for invited guests.

The administration building, which opened in May, is located on the site of the first superintendent's house, at the nursery, in Edmonton.

It provides office space for professional and clerical staff as well as a conference room, library and computer room.

"Before we moved in here we used what is called the operations building as headquarters," says George Grainger, director of the tree nursery. "And some staff members were working out of a trailer and other buildings spread around the grounds. This office provides working space for the professional staff and also leaves the operation building as office space for technical staff."

There are 34 full time professional, technical and support workers employed at the centre along with 85 to 90 seasonal wage earners.

(Cont'd)

Office dedicated to Art Wilson (cont'd)

The tree nursery was actually started in 1910 by the federal government near Cooking Lake, 30 miles east of Edmonton. That project was abandoned in 1930, but was later resurrected by the Alberta Forest Service who transferred much of the Cooking Lake nursery stock to a new site on the Alberta Hospital Edmonton grounds.

By the mid-1940s it was obvious the Alberta hospital site would not serve future development of the nursery. In 1947 a start was made clearing an 18 acre site on what was then a government fur farm, across the road from the hospital. The first trees were planted in 1949.

In 1951 the management of the nursery was transferred to Alberta Agriculture because the nursery was primarily devoted to the production of seedlings, transplants and rooted cuttings for the farm shelterbelt program.

Since that 18 acre beginning the nursery has grown to cover 750 acres, of which, 420 acres is arable land.

Wilson entered the Alberta Agriculture scene in 1942. He had started his career in 1934 as a teacher at the Vermilion School of Agriculture.

Switching over to government service he was made a field crops commissioner in 1942, continuing in that post until being named director of the plant industry divison in 1965. He retired from this post July 19, 1970.

The tree nursery and horticulture centre owes its existence to Wilson, an Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame member. Under his guidance the program and facilities at the centre have expanded over the years.

The nursery which is best known for providing the stock that supplies the annual planting of trees and shrubs in the province-wide shelterbelt program, produces 3.4 million seedlings each year.

(Cont'd)

Office dedicated to Art Wilson (cont'd)

The most recent additions to its services includes the appointment of an extension horticulturist for the province providing information and programs to the general public.

The centre also plays a major role in working with commercial growers, providing extension services to greenhouse operators, nurserymen, the landscape industry and market gardeners. The centre employs a vegetable specialist and a protected crop specialist working with northern Alberta producers.

Research work on new varieties of plants is also conducted here, along with fairly recent high-tech research work on tissue culture.

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Contact: George Grainger
973-3351

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Rates for herbicide application unchanged

The cost of applying herbicide, through a custom operator isn't going to be much different this year than it was last, according to a survey released by Alberta Agriculture.

The 1986 "going rate" for custom herbicide application is largely unchanged from 1985 levels says Garth Nickorick, farm management economist with the department in Olds.

The survey includes ground and aerial application charges as provided by 135 custom operators throughout the province.

Application with truck mount, floaters, and pull-type implements ranged from $1.50 - $3.75 per acre with the most common charge in the $2.50 - $3.50 per acre range. The Lethbridge - Medicine Hat area had the lowest rates at $2 - $2.50 per acre.

Spraying with aircraft ranged from $2.75 - $3.25 per acre at the one gallon of water rate. Using a two gallon water rate increased the charge $.25 - $.50 per acre.

Rental rates of herbicide application units were $1 - $1.50 per acre.

For more information or for the survey itself, contact Garth Nickorick, Farm Business Management Branch, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO, or phone (403)556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Fertitilizer application rates announced

According to results of a survey, the custom fertilizer application rates for 1986 are about the same as they were in 1985.

The "going rate" for fertilizer application is relatively unchanged from last year, says Garth Nickorick, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture in Olds.

The survey includes the application of granular and liquid fertilizer custom charges as provided by 225 operators and dealers throughout the province.

Granular application with truck mount, floaters and pull-type implements range from $2 - $4 per acre with the most commonly quoted rate being $2.50 - $3.50 per acre. Application with air seeder implements ranged from $4 to $10 per acre with the most common rate being $6 - $7 per acre.

Liquid fertilizer application was most commonly charged at $3 - $3.50 per acre within a range of $1.75 - $6.50 per acre.

Rental of granular applicators for farmer use was most commonly $5 - $7 per tonne. Daily rates were $30 - $50 per day.

Rental of anhydrous ammonia applicators with cultivator attached for farmer use was $80 - $85 per tonne. The charge without cultivator was $40 - $50 per tonne.

For more information or for a copy of the survey, contact Garth Nickorick at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO or phone (403)556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Wild rice field day planned

The budding wild rice industry in Alberta will be open for inspection and discussion August 30 during a field day at Jackfish Lake, near Athabasca.

The event sponsored by the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association and Alberta Agriculture will allow anyone interested in wild rice production and the general public a chance to see how this specialty crop is grown and discuss the potential for a new crop industry.

Harvey Yoder, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Lac La Biche, who has been working with the association since it started, says the day will offer both a formal presentation on wild rice at the Park View Community Hall, as well as boat trips on Jackfish Lake to see the crop actually being harvested.

"We expect it to be a come-and-go type program," says Yoder. "We will offer the more formal presentation at the hall and the boat trips, both in the morning and afternoon, so people can attend whichever session suits them."

Interest in wild rice farming has been growing since 1981, when the association was organized to conduct crop trials. With about 1,300 acres of shallow Alberta lakes seeded to wild rice, it is hoped the industry will harvest its first commercial crop of between 25,000 and 30,000 pounds of rice this year.

A decision on the viability and economic feasibility of wild rice will be determined after three to three and a half years of trial crops. This is the second year of the trial project.

Just prior to field day events, the rice growers' association will hold its annual business meeting starting at 10 a.m. in the Park View Hall.

Field day activities will get underway at 11 a.m. Along with the formal presentation at the hall, which is just north of Athabasca airport, there will be displays on the use of wild rice. Lunch will be available.

(Cont'd)

Wild rice field day planned (cont'd)

The harvest demonstrations will be conducted on rice grown by Harvey Barret at Jackfish Lake, east and north of Athabasca. Barrett is president of the wild rice growers' association.

Two large boats will be used to take field day participants out on the lake to see harvesting.

Yoder also expects manufacturers of seeding and harvesting equipment to have displays at the field day.

Although registration isn't required, organizers would appreciate a phone call advising how many will be attending. For further information on the field day contact Harvey Yoder, or Dave Burdek, an agrologist working with the association, at 623-5218 in Lac La Biche.

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Contact: Harvey Yoder
623-5218

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Proper freezing offers good results

Properly freezing fresh fruits and vegetables is an easy and convenient way to capture food value and have a good looking and good tasting product even months later, says a food specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

By following a few basic steps important to home freezing, the homemaker should be able to preserve food value without a lot of fuss, says Suzanne Tenold, a regional food and nutrition specialist with the department in Airdrie.

The main trick, she says, is to use the freshest produce and get it frozen as quickly as possible. This provides the best chance of getting good looking and good quality products.

Tenold says freezing is not only convenient and easy, but it's a good way of retaining color, flavor and food value. She says the products remain attractive and have quality resembling fresh food. Most frozen foods will also keep safely for a convenient length of time.

The freezing process slows down the growth of yeasts, molds and other bacteria that can spoil food.

Freezing also slows enzyme action, responsible for ripening of food, while blanching or flash boiling, usually done before freezing, will completely inactivate it, says Tenold.

"Not all foods can be successfully blanched before freezing. Items such as onions, mushrooms and green peppers are frozen without blanching, due to their delicate cell structure. In this case it is wise to review suggested storage times for these items. Following the right methods will avoid poor results later on," she says.

The specialist says freezing garden produce does take some preplanning, but once organized the process is swift and complete.

(Cont'd)

Proper freezing offers good results (cont'd)

Tenold says there are four key ingredients to minimizing quality loss: control or stop the ripening process; protect the food from oxygen which could affect serious color changes; freeze foods quickly with a constant temperature and minimize the effects of freezer burn by using proper types of packaging materials.

To acheive this she says pick the freshest foods, quickly prepare them for freezing, package them carefully and freeze as soon as possible.

"The produce should be packaged in moisture proof, vapor-proof containers or wrappers. Freezer bags, freezer paper, or containers such as plastic cardboard or aluminum foil designed for the purpose are best. You don't want to let air in or moisture out.

"The condition of food before freezing determines the quality when served," says Tenold. "When the homemaker is going to freeze, they should be ready and follow directions for blanching and packaging.

"Freeze packaged food right away. Never let things sit on the counter at room temperature longer than necessary."

She says some items such as corn on the cob and berries are best if frozen quickly on a cookie sheet covered lightly with plastic wrap, then packaged in freezer containers and frozen.

For more information on freezing foods contact Suzanne Tenold at the Agriculture Regional Centre, Bag Service #1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 0B0.

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Contact: Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Community services section head appointed

A five year veteran of Alberta Agriculture has been appointed head of the community services section for the department.

Andy McPhee who has worked as a program consultant to agricultural societies in the north and northwest regions, took over the new post in mid-July.

He fills the position formerly held by Reg Kontz who was earlier this year named head of the agricultural and community services branch.

In his new job McPhee will be responsible for providing advice and assistance on programs and projects to fairs, exhibitions and agricultural societies in the province.

"These organizations play a significant role in improving the quality of life in the agricultural community," says McPhee.

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Contact: Andy McPhee
427-2171

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

More funds available for summer work

More money has been added to the Summer Farm Employment Program, allowing farmers to keep students, hired under the scheme, through September.

The program, which is funded by Alberta Manpower and administered by Alberta Agriculture pays half the student's wages, to a maximum of $300 a month.

The seasonal program, which has been in operation for 14 years, was to wrap up the end of August, but with additional funds will be extended to September 30.

There are 960 students province-wide hired through the program this year.

"An extension is available to farmers and students already on the program," says Bruce Jantzie, of Alberta Agriculture. "And funding is also available to new applicants who wish to be funded, provided the term of employment is at least one month."

Jantzie says the program does not allow for part time work. The student hired must work full time and not be attending school while employed under the program.

An Alberta farmer can hire a student under the program, provided they are not related. Prospective students must be at least 15 years old and have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18.

Applicants must be residents of Alberta for the last three consecutive years and be legally entitled to work in Canada.

Both students (the employees) and farmers (the employers) must apply for the program. Application forms can be obtained from Canada Farm Labor Pool offices or agriculture manpower program office at 427-2186.

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Contact: Bernie Yakimyshyn
or
Bruce Jantzie
427-2186

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Environment centre plans field day

Alberta farmers will have a chance to see some of the latest research work dealing with insects, weeds and diseases affecting crops during a field day this week at Vegreville.

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville is holding its annual field and display day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., August 7.

Although visitors are welcome to participate in the whole program, farmers will have special interest in the research plot tours, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Jim Bradley of the centre's communication division says the tours will look at such things as the tolerance of plants to newly registered and experimental herbicides.

There will also be experiments dealing with plant diseases affecting canola and cereal crops.

On the harmful insect side there will be an assessment of insect damage on canola, while on the other end of the scale, there will be an experiment using insects for the biological control of sow thistle.

Along with the pest management projects there will be a display using a selection of alpine grasses for use in eastern slope agriculture and reclamation projects.

For further information contact the centre at 632-6761.

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Contact: Jim Bradley
632-6761

August 4, 1986
For immediate release

Brooks field day planned August 29

Home gardeners or anyone interested in horticulture are invited to bring a bag lunch and spend the day in Brooks, August 29, for the 24th annual Alberta Horticultural Research Center (AHRC) field day.

Through films, lectures and guided tours visitors will be able to see what's new and what can be done around the home with flowers, vegetables and trees.

The theme of this year's field day is "Modern Yards and Gardens". The centre is located on the Trans Canada Highway, five km east of Brooks.

The Alberta Agriculture centre is a world-renowned facility providing research and extension information to the commercial horticultural community in Alberta, specifically, and to horticulturists across the prairies.

Research extension work in intensive crop management under protected cultivation and irrigation has been ongoing for 50 years.

Special displays this year will include mulch, tunnel and hot caps for home gardens, raised-bed vegetable production and hydroponic and rock wool production in the hobby greenhouse.

Other exhibits and displays will involve fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, irrigation, special crops, woody ornamentals and home storage facilities for vegetables.

Included in the 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. program will be films, demonstrations and lectures on topics such as flower arranging, pest management, poisonous plants, budding and grafting and pruning.

Guided tours of the vegetable, fruit, ornamental and special crops research plots will provide visitors with the opportunity to see various projects being conducted.

(Cont'd)

Brooks field day planned August 29 (cont'd)

Specialists in the plant pest clinic will be available to diagnose and discuss plant disease, insect and weed problems. Visitors are encouraged to bring samples or specimens with them for diagnosis.

Although everyone is invited to the field day, individuals or groups wishing special attention should make arrangements to visit the center at some other time during the summer.

Field day guests should be prepared for a limited amount of walking around the site. A special walking tour has been arranged this year for the arboretum and other demonstration areas.

Visitors are advised to bring a bag lunch although fresh corn on the cob and refreshments will be served.

For further details on the program write the AHRC at Bag 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0, or call 362-3391.

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Contact: Gordon Grant
362-3391

AGRI-NEWS

SEP 16 1986

August 11, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Calf weaning period extended two weeks.....1

Lower costs, work shortage keeps rates down.....3

Guide to employment records and forms simplified.....4

Cutting too late can cause problems.....5

Blanching vegetables stops ripening process.....7

Open freezing is a good approach.....9

Gadgets and tools may help when freezing.....11

Fertilizer cost assistance extended.....13

Provincial dairy show held in Red Deer.....15

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August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Calf weaning period extended two weeks

Livestock producers planning to precondition their calves this fall will have to keep them on the program for a couple extra weeks, following guideline changes announced by the advisory committee overseeing the program.

While 30 days has been the minimum amount of time required for weaning under the program, beginning this year, the calves will need to be weaned for at least 45 days before going to market.

Although the move will mean an extra 15 days in feeding costs for the cow-calf operator, extra weight gains should more than take care of any expenses, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder (ACPF) program is designed to help producers sell a heavier, healthier calf on sale day and get more money for it.

The producer is registered in the program by a local veterinarian and receives certification the animals have been preconditioned.

Under the program, those registered, wean their calves early, get them over the shock of weaning and better prepare them for the stress of the auction mart and feedlot. Because the feedlot buyer is getting an animal already gaining weight and less susceptable to illness, he is willing to pay more for it.

The advisory committee with members representing producers, veterinarians, feedlot and auction mart operators recommended the weaning period change to improve the condition of calves.

"This change was approved in response to many requests and demands from cattle buyers and feedlot operators to improve the health status of calves," says Dr. Terry Church, head of the health management branch of Alberta Agriculture.

(Cont'd)

Calf weaning period extended two weeks (cont'd)

"In some cases, a 30 day weaning period was not long enough for calves to recover from shipping fever pneumonia or other diseases following weaning and return to a healthy, vigorous status. A weaning period of 45 days will help ensure the calves which are liable to become sick in the feedlots are not being sold under the program."

Church says while the costs of keeping the calves will increase, the producer should easily recoup his costs through extra weight gains.

"The cost will be more than offset by the returns from the additional weight gains at the time of sale," says Church. "Feed costs per pound of gain are expected to be about 50 cents per pound, or less and calves should bring prices of 90 cents to $1 per pound this fall."

The branch head says producers may also see a bonus paid for preconditioned calves because of improved health status. In the past five years the premium for preconditioned calves has been $5 per hundred pounds.

"The outlook for preconditioned calves appears to be excellent this fall and there should be no problems selling all the preconditioned calves available for sale, he says.

"Now that we have returned to abundant, low cost feed supplies, preconditioning is an attractive way for cow-calf producers to increase their net returns."

Under the program producers are entitled to a paid veterinary visit again this year to complete ear tagging and certificates.

For more information on the program contact a district agriculturist, a veterinarian or auction sale manager.

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Contact: Dr. Terry Church
436-9343

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Lower costs, work shortage keeps rates down

The 1986 custom rates for swathing, combining and hauling grain crops in Alberta are not expected to change significantly from last year's levels according to a farm management economist.

The combination of lower operating costs and the desire for work will keep rates from rising, says Garth Nickorick with Alberta Agriculture, farm business management program in Olds.

Swathing charges averaged $5 per acre last year in a range of $4 - $6 per acre. On a per hour basis, $40 per hour was common.

Combining costs averaged $12 - $14 per acre on dryland crops while irrigated crops were $15 - $20 per acre. Trucking up to five miles adds $2 - $4 per acre to these figures. On a per hour basis, $90 per hour is common.

"Farmers are encouraged to contact custom harvesters as soon as possible to locate a list of possible operators and to fine tune the expected harvesting cost," says Nickorick. "Charges will vary from area to area reflecting local conditions, stand of crop, size of fields and time of year."

For further information contact Garth Nickorick at the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Guide to employment records and forms simplified

Farmers who battle with the maze of paperwork involved in hiring employees will be glad to know help has arrived.

Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with the chartered accountant firm, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, has revised the publication "Farm Employment Records and Forms", which should make the hiring process simpler.

Harry Warne, farm management economist with the department in Olds, says more farmers each year are asking how they should go about hiring an employee and if they can handle the paperwork.

"This publication is really a step-by-step guide that will explain the procedures to follow and illustrate by a case scenario the necessary forms to complete," he says. "With this publication, the paper jungle associated with hiring employees should become a thing of the past."

Brief outlines of federal and provincial programs available to assist farm employers obtain and train employees are included in the publication.

Farmers will find the appendix listing of federal and provincial agencies, complete with phone numbers and addresses, a useful contact reference.

Copies of "Farm Employment Records and Forms", (Agdex 818-31) are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch in Olds, and the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Harry Warne
556-4247

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Cutting too late can cause problems

Central and northern Alberta farmers who have had trouble getting the first cut of hay off because of rain this summer, should be careful about taking a second cut too late in the growing season.

A specialist with Alberta Agriculture says if hay is cut in that critical four to six weeks before frost, there is a real risk of winter crop damage.

Bjorn Berg, regional forage specialist with the department in Vermilion, says a field cut after mid-August will have three weeks or less before the growing season ends. Berg says this is not enough time for the plants to develop adequate food reserves to see them through winter.

"In the central and nothern parts of the province the second cut needs to be made before August 15 or there will be a problem of wintering," says Berg.

In most parts of the province the first cut has been delayed because of persistent rainfall. The southern region around Lethbridge has had a fairly normal to dry year, although from the Calgary area north there has been everything from showers to heavy rain frequent enough to make haying difficult.

The delay in harvesting means there will probably be a "fair amount" of poor quality hay stored this year.

"If someone was able to get their first cut off around the third week of the June, they probably have good, high quality hay," says Berg. "But as the days go by, the volume of the first cut increases, but the quality goes down."

If the first cut is late, the regrowth can still be used as pasture for cattle, although farmers should be aware of two risks, says the specialist.

(Cont'd)

Cutting too late can cause problems (cont'd)

Pasturing legumes in that critical four to six weeks before the end of the growing season has the same affect as cutting the crop with machinery. Pasturing during this period can reduce the crop's ability to survive the winter.

Secondly, Berg says, depending on the type of pasture the livestock are coming from, turning animals into lush regrowth could cause problems with bloat.

For further advice on forage crops or pasturing contact a district agriculturist or a regional forage specialist.

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Contact: Bjorn Berg
853-8109

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Blanching vegetables stops ripening process

Blanching or flash boiling vegetables before freezing stops the food from ripening further, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Freezing alone only slows down the enzyme action responsible for continued maturation of food, says Suzanne Tenold, regional food and nutrition specialist with the department in Airdrie.

Just a few minutes in boiling water, depending on the vegetable, will stop ripening and set or refresh the natural color of the product.

Tenold says not all foods can be successfully blanched before freezing. Items such as onions, mushrooms and green peppers are frozen without blanching, due to delicate cell structure. She suggests reviewing recommended storage times for these items.

"When blanching, it is important to be organized and set up the equipment for a logical sequence of events for maximum efficiency," says the specialist. "You will need a pot of boiling water big enough to allow you to submerge a colander, sieve or blanching basket and a pot or bowl filled with ice water. The cold water will stop the cooking process after blanching."

Blanch small quantities at a time to allow maximum heat exposure to all pieces and to shorten the lag time for the water to return to boiling. Usually about 500 ml or two cups at a time is enough.

Lower the vegetables into the boiling water and start timing immediately. The times vary depending on the product, so check a reliable reference to be sure the vegetables don't overcook.

As soon as the time is up, plunge the vegetables in the ice water to stop further cooking. Drain and pack in a recommended freezer container or open freeze on a cookie sheet, then pack.

(Cont'd)

Blanching vegetables stops ripening process (cont'd)

Tenold says the packaged products should be sealed tightly and labelled clearly before being frozen.

For further information on freezing foods contact Suzanne Tenold, Agricultural Regional Centre, Bag Service #1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 0B0.

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Contact: Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Open freezing is a good approach

With speed a key factor in preserving food quality, open freezing is a method that works with some products in helping to quickly lock in food value.

Suzanne Tenold, a food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says open freezing works well with different types of food ranging from meringues and whipped cream to garden vegetables and casseroles.

Tenold, a regional specialist with the department in Airdrie, says the process involves freezing foods without a heavy wrapping, for a short time, and then packaging them quickly and returning them to the freezer.

She says there are three main applications for this method.

"First of all, open freezing of individual items allows air to circulate around each, thus hardening them enough to allow packaging without damage," she says.

Meringues, piped rosettes of whipped cream and even duchess potatoes and other pureed vegetables are good candidates for this method. Packing delicate items such as cream rosettes still requires care in handling, she notes, and are safer stored in rigid containers after open freezing.

"Secondly, open freezing is effective for blanched vegetables as well. Corn on the cob and sugar pea pods are good examples. This fast exposure allows complete surface freezing very quickly."

"Thirdly, open freezing of large items such as casseroles and cooked purees, is useful when the homemaker wants to reuse a certain dish."

Place the mashed or cooked item into a casserole dish, lined with foil or plastic wrap, cover lightly and open freeze.

Once solid, remove the food by lifting the casserole liner, wrap tightly and return to the freezer. For serving, upwrap the item, place it in the original dish or one of appropriate size, thaw or reheat.

(Cont'd)

Open freezing is a good approach (cont'd)

"This is a very efficient method for saving on containers," says Tenold. "Cooked vegetables that work well this way include mashed squash, vegetable medley, creamed corn and pureed vegetables such as turnip, carrot, brussel sprouts, squash and Jerusalem artichoke."

For more information on freezing foods contact Suzanne Tenold, Agricultural Regional Centre, Bag Service # 1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 0B0.

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Contact: Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Gadgets and tools may help when freezing

With home freezing recognized as a popular way of preserving food, enterprising individuals have been inspired to develop a variety of gadgets and tools which may make the job more efficient.

A regional food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture says there is everything from special knives to vacuum pumps and fast freeze trays that may be of some value depending on the product being frozen and the quantity being prepared.

Suzanne Tenold, a department specialist in Airdrie, says freezer knives are available for separating and cutting frozen items, where a regular kitchen knife would bend or break. A freezer saw is a similar option and will cut through bone as well.

Mechanical vacuum pumps, known as freezer pumps, are useful gadgets to efficiently remove air from freezer bags, says Tenold.

Fast freeze trays are available to replace the foil-lined cookie sheet used for open freezing. These trays are usually made of rigid plastic and some types are stackable to allow more foods to be exposed to the low freezer temperatures at one time.

"Recently, heat sealing units have made their appearance in stores," says Tenold. "These are electrically operated units for sealing freezer bags. These appliances are expensive, but could be worthwhile if you do a lot of freezing.

"The units usually come with complete plastic tubing so bags can be made to fit any size requirement. Do remember however, that these units do not eliminate the need to work quickly to get your produce into the freezer."

(Cont'd)

Gadgets and tools may help when freezing (cont'd)

Other items include a freezer diary which helps organize the contents of the freezer, freezer thermometers, freezer tape and freezer labels with adhesive designed for low temperatures. Non-water base pens or grease pencils are also useful.

For more information on freezing contact Suzanne Tenold, Agricultural Regional Centre, Bag Service #1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 0B0.

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Contact: Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Fertilizer cost assistance extended

A provincial program, which has paid out more than $20 million to Alberta farmers to help offset the cost of fertilizer, has been extended for another year.

Farmers will have until July 31, 1987 to buy and use fertilizer on their fields and up to January 31, 1988 to pay for the fertilizer and make a claim under the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Program.

In announcing the extension, Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga noted fertilizer costs can amount to as much as 30 per cent of the cash cost of crop production.

The program, which was introduced in 1984, has been extended because of stress on farm incomes, says the minister.

"This is particularly the case given the lowered initial payments for the coming crop year," says Elzinga.

Alberta farmers buy as much as $300 million worth of fertilizer annually. Since the inception of the price protection plan more than $23 million in payments have been made to more than 31,100 Alberta farmers.

Program administrator Dr. Bruce Jeffery says anyone who has not claimed under the program can claim on fertilizer purchased and used since August 1, 1984.

Under the plan, eligible applicants receive a grant calculated on the basis of $50 per tonne of actual nitrogren and $25 per tonne of actual phosphate used, during the effective period, on land farmed in Alberta. For example, the grant would be $41 per tonne for 82-0-0 fertilizer or $19.25 per tonne for 11-55-0 fertilizer.

"The applicant must farm land within the province of Alberta that he or she owns, leases or rents for the purpose of crop or forage production," says Jeffery. "Individuals, corporations, partnerships and other organizations actively engaged in farming are eligible."

(Cont'd)

Fertilizer cost assistance extended (cont'd)

Only fertilizer used on farmland in Alberta is eligible. An applicant can only claim on the same fertilizer once, however an applicant can make more than one application.

"Upper limits based on nitrogen and phosphate usage per acre do apply," says Jeffery. "Therefore, when making an application be sure to list the acreage of all crops and forage that have been or will be fertilized in the crop year."

Application forms are available from district agriculturists. Original invoices and dealer summary statements or Form Bs stamped and signed by the dealer must accompany the application.

"Make sure and take your documents with you to the district office," says the administrator. "Original invoices will be photocopied at the district office and forwarded with your application to head office. Your original invoices will be stamped and returned to you."

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Contact: Bruce Jeffery
422-5672

August 11, 1986
For immediate release

Provincial dairy show held at Red Deer

Clubs from southern and north central Alberta were the dominate winners in Red Deer recently for the 1986 Provincial 4-H Dairy Show and Team Judging Contest.

Twenty dairy clubs participated in the three day event which covered grooming and team judging competition and the dairy show.

Teams from the Rolly View 4-H Dairy Club took top awards in both the grooming and team judging competition.

A Rolly View team earned top honors in the grooming competition which included participants from the Western Canadian Classic Qualifying Show and the Provincial 4-H Dairy Show.

A Rolly View 4-H Dairy entry was also the top overall team in the Provincial 4-H Dairy Team Judging Competition followed by the Mountain View 4-H Dairy and Millet 4-H Dairy teams.

Greg Thimer of Rolly View Dairy earned top individual honors in the contest for the fourth consecutive year, as well as placing first in the junior Holstein, Jersey, and mature Holstein classes. Bev Congdon was the top individual judge for the Ayrshire Class and Dave Trautman scored highest overall in the pedigree class. Both Congdon and Trautman are members of the Bashaw Dairy Club.

The top individual in "reasons" was won by Greg Thimer, with second place going to Bev Congdon and Pat McAllister of Mountain View Dairy placing third. This award is given to the competitor with the best "reasons" for deciding the placement of the show animals.

Rolly View 4-H Dairy Club and Millet 4-H Dairy Club were the top teams in the individual classes, with Rolly View placing first in the junior Holstein, Jersey, and mature Holstein classes and Millet winning the Ayrshire and pedigree classes.

Awards were presented at a banquet sponsored by the Westerner Exposition and Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

(Cont'd)

Provincial dairy show held at Red Deer (cont'd)

Among the guests at the opening of the Provincial 4-H Dairy Show were Sherry Roth, 1986 Premier's Award Winner from Heisler and Dominique Nelis, 1986 Alberta Dairy Princess from Hays.

Judge Orville Schmidt from Rolly View placed the conformation classes, assisted by junior judge, Greg Thimer.

Sue Wedman from Rolly View Dairy showed the champion calf, and Lenard Congdon of Bashaw had the reserve champion entry. The junior yearling class was won by Kelly Wedman's animal. Stacy Jobs, Spruceview Modern Milkers, had the reserve champion entry. The yearling champion and reserve champion were won by Lexi Wright, Mountain View Dairy and Darren Hipkin, East Edmonton Dairy. Kent Bienert from Millet Dairy showed the champion two-year-old, and Darren Hipkin's cow was chosen as reserve champion.

First in the herdsmanship class was exhibited by East Edmonton Dairy and second place was shown by Mountain View Dairy.

Kent Bienert's two-year-old female was named supreme grand champion, and Sue Wedman's calf was selected as supreme reserve grand champion.

John Copithorne Jr. from Cochrane judged the showmanship classes. Bev Congdon of the Bashaw Dairy Club took top honors for the second consecutive year. Mountain View Dairy Club's top showman, Lexi Wright, earned second place.

East Edmonton Dairy Club took first place in the herdsmanship competition, followed by the Spruceview and Lacombe Dairy Clubs.

Participating in the provincial dairy show were clubs from Bashaw, Buffalo Lake, the C.D.C. Club (Carstairs, Didsbury, Crossfield), Colinton Multi, East Edmonton, Elnora, Green Acres, Lacombe, Lobstick Multi, Mid-River, Millet, Mountain View, Pipestone, Rolly View, Spruceview Modern Milkers, Sturgeon Valley, Thorsby Multi, Twilight, Viking Multi and Wild Rose.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
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August 18, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Flood damage registration deadline September 15.....1

Selenium map tells a different story.....4

Weed specialist ready with answers.....6

Wild Rice appears suited to Alberta - Part 1.....7

Wild Rice appears suited to Alberta - Part 2.....10

Alberta's crop diversity on display.....12

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 1.....14

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 2.....18

Appointments made to grain commission.....25

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Flood damage registration deadline September 15

Farmers and rural homeowners affected by the once-in-a-lifetime July floods in north-central Alberta have until September 15 to register for damage compensation.

Registration sessions have already been held in most centres, but anyone missed can still make application either at the provincial disaster services branch in Edmonton or at a local municipal office. Claimants in the city of Edmonton have until September 1 to register.

The assistance program applies to anyone affected by flooding along the Medicine, Blindman, North Saskatchewan, Paddle, Swan, Pembina, McLeod and Athabasca Rivers and their major tributaries.

Environment Minister Ken Kowalski's department is co-ordinating the assistance program. The federal government has agreed to share the cost of emergency action under disaster financial assistance arrangements.

Anyone not registered can obtain registration forms from a municipal district, county or municipal office or from Disaster Services Branch, 10320 - 146 Street, Edmonton, T5N 3A2, or call 427-2772.

Once a property owner has registered, an appraiser will inspect the damage and work out a claim.

Straight forward claims are checked and processed for payment.

Any claim that has unusual circumstances is submitted to a committee representing nine provincial government departments which will review the information and make a recommendation to the environment minister. Kowalski will then make a final decision on the claim.

"Although it sounds like a long process all claims are expected to be handled quickly," says Dyane Harpe, a spokesman for Alberta Public Safety Services.

"Because of the nature of the problem and the degree of the loss, the claim process will exercise a great deal of compassion and minimize any delays."

(Cont'd)

Flood damage registration deadline September 15 (cont'd)

Program administrator Al Shephard says assistance is for those affected by the flood waters of this once-in-100-year disaster.

"We're concerned about those affected by a very unusual situation. It's not for those who often have a problem because a small creek backs up and that sort of thing. The area affected will be defined in the near future, but generally it means those rivers and the major tributaries in the north-central region that flooded in the last couple weeks of July."

The program will not pay for crops damaged by excessive rainfall, or fields drowned by rain water collecting in low spots.

Both individuals and municipalities will be able to make claims under the assistance program. Municipalities are urged to get their preliminary damage estimates into Alberta Public Safety Services as soon as possible.

In general terms a disaster payment for full crop losses, whether hay or grain, will be made on the basis of $75 per acre. This payment will not affect claim amounts paid by regular hail and crop insurance coverage. Pasture drowned out by flood water is eligible for $20 an acre compensation.

Assistance will also cover loss and damage to private property, including homes, farm buildings, fencing, small business operations and all other essential, but uninsurable, equipment and facilities.

A $1,000 deductible amount will be applied and payments will be based on 80 per cent of the eligible appraised balance. The deductible may be waived if the claimant can show he really can't afford it.

If items being claimed have to be disposed of for health or safety reasons, before the appraiser arrives, make a description and photograph the property in location.

The program will not compensate for lost or damaged luxury items such as recreation vehicles and equipment, jewelry, automobiles, or non-essentials such as residential landscaping, lawns, shrubs and other minor items. And it will not pay for lost wages.

(Cont'd)

Flood damage registration deadline September 15 (cont'd)

There will also be limited payments for such things as lawn mowers, television sets and toys.

Municipalities will be able to claim assistance for damage to roads, erosion and silt problems, clean-up of water and drainage systems, and utility repair. The program will cover 100 per cent of the cost to return roads and services to their pre-flood condition.

Municipalities will also receive assistance in testing and ensuring water is safe to drink and get technical advice and assistance to help in all aspects of restoration and recovery operations.

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Contact: Dyane Harpe
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Al Shephard
451-7104

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Selenium map tells a different story

A review of 12 years of feed analysis data by Alberta Agriculture has poked some holes in what was once considered a standard answer to requirements for trace mineral supplementation.

Plotting the data on a provincial map tells department specialists the old rule of thumb concerning the need for selenium supplementation no longer applies.

"This information has a few surprises for us and a message for livestock producers," says Al McNeil, a ruminant nutritionist with the department in Edmonton. "What it tells us is there is too much variation in selenium levels throughout the province to take anything for granted."

Selenium is one of the top five trace minerals producers should be concerned about.

It plays a major role in herd health following right behind phosphorous and calcium in order of importance. In the most severe deficiency cases the cow/calf operator may see calves with white muscle disease or run into problems with pneumonia or other stress related disease in calves, which are also related to selenium deficiency.

More common effects of low selenium levels are reduced fertility in cows, a delay in animals coming into heat and a reduced ability of animals to withstand disease.

In the past it was generally believed if a person farmed east of Highway 2 and south of Highway 16 (generally a dryer area) selenium levels were naturally adequate and no mineral supplement was needed.

Similarly, if a person farmed west of Highway 2 and north of Highway 16 (a wetter zone) supplementation was required.

"What we found from the thousands of forage analysis was that you can't generalize," says McNeil. "There is so much variation in selenium levels from area to area and really from field to field that no broad guidelines can be developed."

(Cont'd)

Selenium map tells a different story (cont'd)

The data came from samples supplied over the years by farmers looking for routine feed analysis information. Some of the forage tested also came from samples collected by department staff. It wasn't a specific 12-year-study aimed at plotting selenium levels.

The information also represented a cross section of livestock feed ranging from grasses and legumes to grains.

"The bottom line is that it is important to have your feed tested," says McNeil. "The data shows us the results vary from year to year, and area to area. Selenium is required in very small amounts and care should be taken when providing supplemental selenium that the formulation is correct for your situation and the animals are not recieving too much of the trace mineral."

A mature beef cow requires about two milligrams of selenium per day. Nutritionists become concerned when intake exceeds 12 to 15 milligrams per day which could lead to health problems from too much selenium.

"Neither one of these amounts are very big so selenium has to be used with caution," says the specialist.

It is recommended that feed be analyzed by either the Alberta Agriculture lab or one of the five private feed testing labs in the province.

The analysis will allow nutritionists or a veterinarian to make recommendations about the level of supplementation required. Specific trace mineral blends can be developed to meet individual needs.

"As agriculture continues to put increased demands on the production from livestock it becomes even more important to make sure all nutritional requirements are met," says McNeil. "Starting now with a trace mineral supplement program which includes selenium, will give the herd and future calf crops a real health advantage."

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Contact: Al McNeil
436-9150

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Weed specialist ready with answers

Farmers and home gardeners waging the annual war against weeds will have another ally following the appointment of a scientist at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Heidy Tilsner, a weed scientist has joined the centre to provide advice and training and conduct research work on weeds.

Dr. John O'Donovan, head of the weed biology section at the centre, says Tilsner will be responsible for the weed diagnostic, advisory and extension services of the weed biology section.

These services, which are available free to the public, provide information on the identification, control, edibility and toxicity of weeds.

Tilsner will be responsible for maintenance of an extensive herbarium and weed garden at the centre and will participate in extension programs of Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment.

Such programs include field staff training, plant identification courses, weed clinics and participation at agricultural fairs.

The specialist will also conduct applied research in weed biology with emphasis on life cycles of weeds and weed seed germination and dormancy. This information is necessary for the development of effective weed control practices in Alberta.

Tilsner received her master of science degree in 1986 from the University of British Columbia. The research for her masters involved studies of primary and secondary dormancy of wild oats.

She was previously employed as a research assistant with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food and as a teaching assistant at UBC.

For advice on weed related problems contact Tilsner at 632-6761, extension 289.

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Contact: Heidy Tilsner
632-6761

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Wild rice appears suited to Alberta
Part I

With an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of wild rice expected to be harvested in Alberta this year, the relatively new specialty crop has grown beyond the hobby stage.

It may still be a year or two before a decision is made to turn wild rice production into a full grown industry, but a spokesman for Alberta Agriculture says the potential is there for the province to become a leading producer of the gourmet food.

There are about 1,300 acres of Alberta shallow lakes seeded to wild rice this year, says Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche. Yoder has worked with interested producers to run trials on wild rice production since the crop was proposed in 1982.

Starting out with a few interested people and a few acres of lake seeded, the sprouting wild rice industry now has an association with 100 members and expects to harvest its first commercial crop of up to 30,000 pounds of rice this fall.

Last year the growers reaped about 6,500 pounds of rice, but as has been the case since they began crop trials, all seed production has been used to either thicken rice stands or plant new acres.

"This will be the first year we will actually see commerical production," says Yoder. "But we are really still trying to decide whether it is a viable industry here. I think most people involved believe it is viable, but we want to see what happens in the next year or so before any decisions are made."

Wild rice isn't native to Alberta. In fact, Manitoba and Ontario are the only two provinces in Canada where wild rice grows naturally. Saskatchewan, which has produced up to a million pounds of rice in a year, has introduced the crop like Alberta.

(Cont'd)

Wild rice appears suited to Alberta - Part I (cont'd)

If conditions are right, wild rice will probably grow anywhere in the province, but since the idea sprouted in Lac La Biche, most production has been concentrated in the north central region of the province. Most members of the association are in the Lac La Biche/Athabasca/Barrhead area with some crops being tested near Fort Chipewyan in the north and Sundre in the south.

Of the 100 member Alberta Wild Rice Growers Association, headed by Harvey Barrett of Athabasca, Yoder says most are waiting to see if the crop and industry are viable before jumping in with both feet.

"We only have about 10 producers who are really serious at the moment," says Yoder. "Most members of this core group have the seeding and harvesting equipment and are working to develop acreages of wild rice."

He says members in the core group farm between 50 and 150 acres of rice each, with the average rice field at about 75 acres.

"Most of the other association members are quite interested and have smaller acreages, but they are waiting to see what the industry is going to do before they put a lot of money into it."

The district agriculturist, who has a degree in agriculture education with a minor in plant science, says wild rice is probably no more difficult to grow than oats, barley or wheat, although the environment is quite different.

Yoder says the crop doesn't appear to be affected by disease, insect pests or weeds.

"If the water quality and depth are right it should grow almost anywhere," he says. "Right now we are also working with Ducks Unlimited to see if some of areas and water level control projects they have developed for ducks could be used also for rice production. Generally the type of lake suitable for rice production doesn't offer much recreation or fishing potential."

The DA says if the crop proves viable there is considerable potential for expansion on Alberta lakes, although access is a problem in some areas.

(Cont'd)

The rice growers association is working on the crop trials with the aid of a $100,000 grant from the federal New Crop Development Fund. The three and a half year project, which is now into its second year, should determine the success of wild rice production.

The association has hired agrologist Dave Burdek as a technical adviser during the development stage.

Yoder says Alberta Agriculture marketing division has also provided assistance to the association and the department's food processing centre in Leduc is also involved in crop development aspects.

"Most wild rice sold on the market today comes from rice paddy operations in the United States," says Yoder. "And for quality it doesn't compare to this more natural growing method used in Canada. And probably the wild rice that grows naturally along the Canadian Shield (Manitoba and Ontario) is of better quality than we can grow in Alberta.

"But by applying some good management practices in Alberta we can become a leading producer of high quality rice. We will able to consistently produce a quality product for which there is a good demand."

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Contact: Harvey Yoder
623-5218

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Wild rice appears suited to Alberta

Part II

Although it sounds exotic, growing wild rice probably isn't any more difficult than growing other grain crops in Alberta, says a spokesman for Alberta Agriculture.

Lac La Biche, district agriculturist, Harvey Yoder who has worked with the Alberta Wild Rice Growers Association since it was organized in 1981, says as long as the conditions are right, wild rice will grow in almost any part of the province.

There are about 1,300 acres of Alberta lakes, mostly in the north central region, seeded to wild rice this year. Still in a trial stage as a new Alberta specialty crop, this acreage is expected to produce up to 30,000 pounds of rice.

Wild rice will grow in a shallow lake ranging from six inches to three to four feet deep, that preferably has an inlet and outlet allowing for an exchange of water.

"It likes relatively clear water that is free of algae," says Yoder. "And it will not grow in alkaline water. The lake must have a soft muck-like soil."

He says sloughs usually aren't good for the crop because there is too much algae and the water becomes stagnant.

The seed, which is broadcast seeded over the lake usually in the fall, will germinate best in six inches to two and a half feet of water, although Yoder has seen it germinate in as much as four feet of water.

An annual species, once the rice is established there should be no need to reseed. Yoder says the stand will thicken and spread naturally as some of the seeds fall back into the water as the plants mature.

Because the growers' association has been trying to measure the feasibility of the crop they have used any seed produced thus far to put back into the crop.

(Cont'd)

Wild rice appears suited to Alberta - Part II (cont'd)

Requiring about 100 days from germination to maturity, crops can be ready to harvest from as early as mid-August on through September. Because the kernels mature at different times there are usually at least two and sometimes up to four passes made over the crop in harvesting.

A heat-loving crop, rice stands in Alberta have been producing 75 pounds to the acre, but as the stands thicken, Yoder says this production could easily double.

Once the green rice is harvested, it has to be cured by being allowed to sit for eight to 10 days. The moisture content must be kept up and it can't be allowed to heat. After curing, it is put through a parching and drying process, cleaned and bagged.

The green rice sells for an average of $1.50 to $1.75 a pound although it has gone for as much as $3 a pound. The finished, ready-to-cook product wholesales for about $5 to $6 a pound, while the retail price in specialty shops ranges from $7 to $14 a pound depending on the quantity and size of packaging.

Yoder says Alberta producers will have to take their green rice to processing plants in Saskatchewan, for the curing, parching, drying and packaging process, until the Alberta industry develops enough to warrant a plant here.

He says to economically operate, a plant probably needs assurance of about 500,000 pounds of green rice annually.

From an equipment standpoint farmers basically need to invest in an airboat, a broadcast-type seeder that mounts on the front of the boat and a speedhead harvesting unit which also mounts on the boat.

"I think there is a lot of interest in wild rice in Alberta, but most people are waiting to see if crop trials now being conducted are successful," says Yoder. "If they do prove out I think more and more acres will be seeded and eventually there will probably be a processing plant in Alberta."

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Contact: Harvey Yoder
623-5218

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Alberta's crop diversity on display

Farmers and apartment dwellers alike, interested in the range of crops grown on 30 million acres of agricultural land in Alberta can get a capsulized view of the industry just a few blocks from downtown Edmonton.

The Crops of Alberta display, planted on the grounds of the Alberta Agriculture headquarters on 113 Street in Edmonton, will provide people from all walks of life with a self guided tour of the past, present and future of the crop world in Alberta.

About 300 different plots, supporting crop varieties ranging from corn to buckwheat, sugar beets to safflower and alfalfa to sorghums, have been planted on a one-acre block outside the front door of the J.G. O'Donoghue Building at 7000 -113 Street.

"The public is welcome to come at any time and have a look at the range of crops grown in this province," says Rod Kusiek, co-ordinator of the crop demonstration project.

Each plot is labelled so visitors can stroll through the area at their leisure. A background pamphlet is also available and anyone wanting more information can contact the crop protection branch.

Featured in the plots are everything from ancestrol crops grown in Asia Minor more than 2,000 years ago which were the forerunners to the crops grown here today, to brand new varieties that are still being researched and tested.

There are cereal crops, oilseed crops, specialty crops, forages and novelty crops such as black and purple barley and upland rice.

Kusiek notes not every variety planted in the demonstration area is suited to north-central Alberta growing conditions, so the plot does not represent peak growth performance.

Also some of the diseases that occur naturally have been allowed to take their toll on the demonstration plot so people can see the affect they have on crops.

(Cont'd)

Alberta crop diversity on display (cont'd)

And like any good garden the demonstration site also has some weeds. Kusiek and his assistant Dick Woloschuk maintain a showcase of noxious weeds which includes scentless chamomile, common toadflax, thistles and others. Again the weed plots gives the public a chance to see what the species look like.

The crop demonstration project was started last year. It falls under the direction of Denise Maurice, supervisor of weed research and development within the plant industry division.

For further information contact Kusiek or Maurice at the plant industry division of Alberta Agriculture, 7000- 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6, or call 427-5328.

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Contact: Rod Kusiek
427-5314
or
Denise Maurice
427-5328

August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Give commodity-based loans a second look
Part One of Two

Although the federal government's latest farm loan program may not suit every farm borrower, it does deserve a second look, says an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

Doug Barlund a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says since it was announced earlier this year, the Commodity-Based Loan (CBL) Program has taken a lot of flack from critics.

Barlund says the new style loan, available to the 15,000 Alberta borrowers who already deal with the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC), does not allow a farmer to have his cake and eat it too. But, he adds, it does have many good points that deserve serious consideration.

The purpose of the $700 million federal program announced in February is to help farmers who already have high-interest FCC loans to switch over to a loan that have payments easier to handle when markets are poor. In the first two months of the program 115 CBLs have been approved in Alberta.

The commodity-based loan is tied to a major commodity produced by the borrower. Whether the farmer is raising calves or canola (or any other commodity in between) he can assign one or a maximum of two commodities to the loan.

There are two interest-rate options, depending on circumstances, offered under the program but both operate on the same concept. If the market price of the commodity(ies) assigned to the loan increases, so does outstanding principal and the payments. If the market price drops, so follows the principal and payments. The loan is amortized over 20 years and can be renewed after 10.

(cont'd)

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 1 (cont'd)

Critics of the commodity-based loans don't like the fact that payments and the principal balance can increase when markets are good.

But Barlund says inspite of the criticism, it is important to examine the positive points of the CBL program:

1. Direct reduction of annual payments.
2. As commodity prices fall, yearly payments decrease.
3. As commodity prices vary over the long term, price decreases may over-shadow price increases, resulting in an outstanding balance comparable to that on a normal market rate. This is assuming the borrower stays in the program for 10 years.
4. The maximum interest rate payable under the program is two per cent above the present FCC market rate. In other words, the borrower will never owe more than he would have under a 13 per cent loan (if the current FCC mortgage rate is 11 per cent). If payments exceed those of a 13 per cent loan, the borrower will be credited for the overpayments.
5. The borrower can prepay the "indexed" loans at any time but he will pay back any benefits betwqeen what he has paid at 6 per cent and what would have been paid at 13 per cent on the regular mortgage.
6. Principal reduction can also be achieved by applying annually, the difference between the indexed payments and what would have been made at a normal market rate to outstanding principal. This "extra" reduction of principal helps to offset increases in principal caused by increasing commodity prices.

Farmers with 40 per cent or less equity in their operation may qualify for a fixed interest rate of 6 per cent (actually 6.09% as FCC compounds semi-annually) for a 10 year term, says Barlund.

The principal amount is fully indexed to commodity prices. For example, if prices go up by 10 per cent then the principal would rise by the same percentage, as would the payments.

(Cont'd)

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 1 (cont'd)

Those with between 41 and 55 per cent equity, are eligible for a fixed interest rate midway between 6 per cent and whatever FCC's going 10-year rate happens to be when a commodity-based loan is approved.

The principal amount is adjusted by half of the percentage change in prices. For example, if commodity prices fall by 10 per cent then, the principal loan balance would decrease by 5 per cent, triggering smaller payments.

Farmers with more than 55 per cent equity are ineligible for CBLs.

Annual payments will be influenced by year to year changes in market prices of commodities. Three months prior to instalment date, the average commodity price is calculated over the past 12 months. The principal not due, is then adjusted by the percentage price change, up or down. Borrowers will be able to select one or two commodities (the major product or products sold off their farms) to which their loans will be linked, weighted 50/50 if two commodities are involved.

"Before signing up for the CBL program, eligible FCC borrowers should also consider the negative factors of the program," says Barlund.

Points to consider include:

1. As commodity prices increase, so do the annual loan payments. (This situation is tempered by the fact that as commodity prices increase, generally so does the gross income).
2. The borrower may end up owing more at the end of 10 years than he would have under the original loan at normal market rate. (Again, this is tempered by the fact that the borrower has received cashflow benefits from smaller annual payments over the 10 year payment period.)
3. The borrower can opt out of the indexed program, but the payout figure involves paying back the benefits received from making payments at 6 per cent. This is the opposite of receiving a credit for overpayment in any one year.
4. Commodity prices can't be predicted precisely so there is that risk of not knowing what the balance will be in future years.

(Cont'd)

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 1 (cont'd)

"The toughest question on the borrower's minds is should he take the CBL option?" says Barlund. "This question is not easy to answer. The program was not designed for the borrower to have his cake and eat it too. It is more like a 'risk-sharing program' where the immediate benefits of lower annual payments are offset by the risk in not knowing what direction commodity prices will take."

There is also the subsequent risk of not knowing what the outstanding balance of mortgage will be, year to year. Those who sign up for the program and expect to be able to bail out if commodity prices increase dramatically, will face repaying the benefits they received in previous years. Generally, the CBL program should benefit those low equity borrowers who need a break on annual payments now and who stay with the program for the full 10 year term.

"The best advice for borrowers wondering about the pros and cons of CBL's is to get thorough explanation of the program from their local FCC credit advisor, based on the borrower's best estimates of future commodity prices," says the economist.

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Contact: Doug Barlund
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August 18,1986
For immediate release

Give commodity-based loans a second look
Part Two of Two

An Alberta farmer with low equity and a Farm Credit Corporation loan set at 11 per cent interest, or more, could benefit from the new commodity-based loan program announced earlier this year by the federal government.

"The program will not suit every FCC borrower, but may be of interest to those who are presently paying in excess of 11 per cent interest on mortgages and are having difficulty meeting commitments," says Alberta Agriculture farm economist, Doug Barlund.

"The most outstanding benefit of the program is immediate reduction of annual mortgage payments as the interest rate can be reduced to as low as 6 per cent, depending upon the borrower's equity. As annual payments are indexed to commodity prices, a further reduction in annual payments may be forthcoming if commodity prices weaken further.

"Another positive feature is that a ceiling is placed on the interest rate charged. This is set at 2 per cent above the going market rate for a 20 year FCC mortgage. In other words, if FCC market rate is 11.5 per cent, the borrower will never owe more than what he would have under a 13.5 per cent mortgage."

Barlund says the commodity-based loan, (CBL) won't meet all needs, but it does offer some advantages.

The CML program, described as a "financing alternative for farmers with cash flow problems" is making $700 million available to Canadian farmers who already have Farm Credit Corporation loans. In Alberta there are 15,000 FCC borrowers who may qualify for the commodity-based loans. In the first couple months of the program 115 CBLs have been approved.

The loans are tied to one or two major commodities selected by the borrower. The loan payments are tied to commodity prices. As the market for that commodity goes up or down each year, so do the payments.

(Cont'd)

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 2 (Cont'd)

"The biggest uncertainty of the program is that as future commodity prices cannot be accurately predicted, the borrower is never sure what his yearly outstanding principal will be, let alone the outstanding balance in 10 years time," says Barlund. "However, given that commodity prices vary both up and down, over a 10 year period, outstanding principal balance may level out very close to that of a normal amortized loan in 10 years time."

To illustrate the concept of commodity based loans, Barlund has created an example showing what could happen to Farmer Jones with a $200,000 loan over the next 10 years.

"Farmer Jones is considering applying for a commodity based loan with Farm Credit Corporation," says Barlund. "He is eligible for a fully indexed loan (6% interest rate) and has chosen barley as the commodity to index his payments to. What does Jones' operation look like?"

Farm Data:

Enterprise:	barley
Acres:	600
Yield per acre:	70 bushels
Loan amount:	$200,000
Market interest rate:	11.5%
Amortization period:	20 years
Current barley price:	$1.70/bushel

Jones has predicted what barley prices will be over the next 10 years. The resulting index to be applied to his loan is included in his calculation.

Year	Barley Price/bus	Index
(1986)0	1.70	1.00
1	1.50	0.8824
2	1.50	1.000
3	1.50	1.000
4	1.70	1.1333
5	2.00	1.1765
6	2.25	1.1250
7	2.25	1.000
8	2.00	0.8889
9	1.95	0.9750
(1996)10	2.00	1.0256

(Cont'd)

Give commodity based mortgages a second chance - Part 2 (cont'd)

Farmer Jones predicts the price of barley will gradually increase from the current $1.70 a bushel to $2.25 by year seven and then drop off to $2 by year 10.

"If barley prices occur as Jones predicts over the next 10 years, he would owe FCC $151,500 in 1996 at loan renewal time," says Barlund. "This is only if he stayed in the program for 10 years."

Opting out of the program before the 10 year term can be a costly move, says the economist.

If Farmer Jones decided to drop out of the program in any year before 1996, he would owe the remaining principal, plus have to repay any benefits he had received to date.

His outstanding balance before year 10 would be equal to the remaining principal on the loan at 13.5 per cent (or 2 per cent above the market rate of 11.5 per cent).

For example, if Jones dropped out of the program at the end of year six, he would owe FCC $290,000. (See Graph #1).

The $290,000 payout figure is a combination of the remaining indexed principal plus the repayment of benefits received from making annual payments in previous years, at reduced interest rates.

If Jones dropped out of the program at the end of the nineth year, he would owe FCC $355,000.

However, if he stayed in the program one more year he would owe FCC $151,500, says Barlund.

"At this stage he would owe FCC only the remaining indexed principal and would have reaped the benefits of staying with the CBL plan. In 1996 Jones could refinance the remaining $151,500 with FCC, pay off the loan from other sources, or refinance with another lender, depending upon comparative loan interest rates and terms at that time.

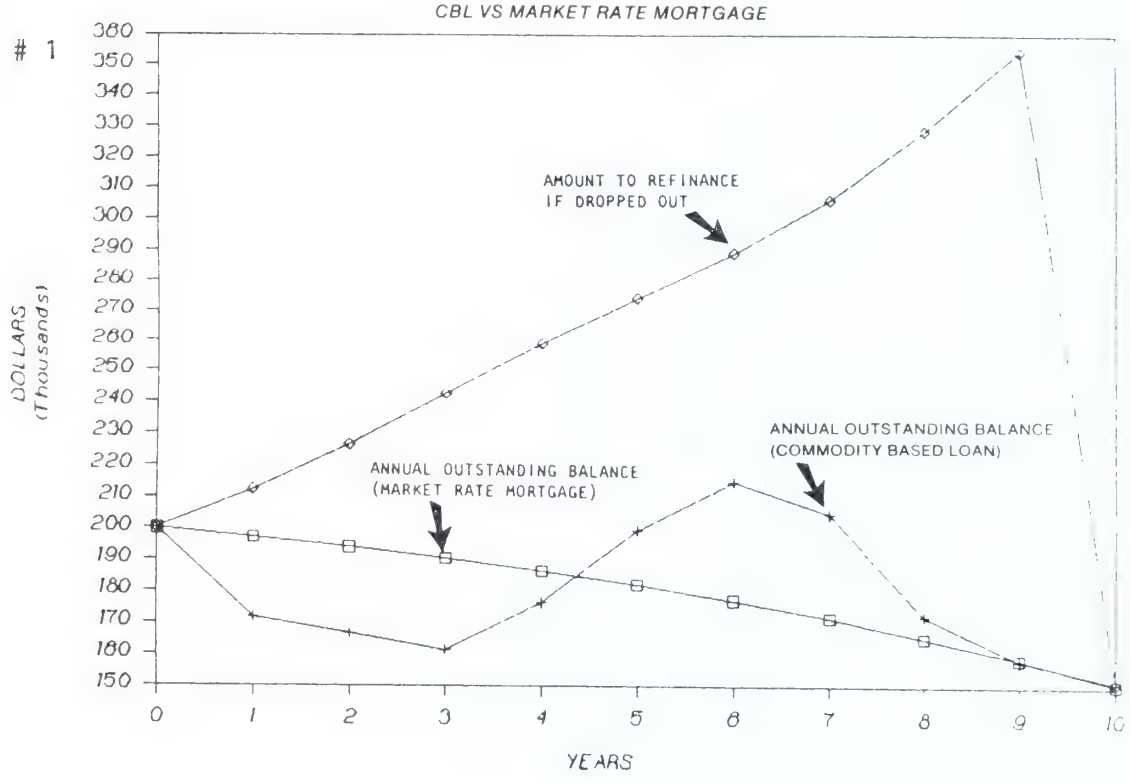
"Coincidentally, if Jones stayed with a regular market rate loan (11.5%), his outstanding balance would be $151,000, not much different from the commodity-based loan balance."

(Cont'd)

GRAPH # 1

COMPARISON OF OUTSTANDING BALANCES

CBL VS MARKET RATE MORTGAGE

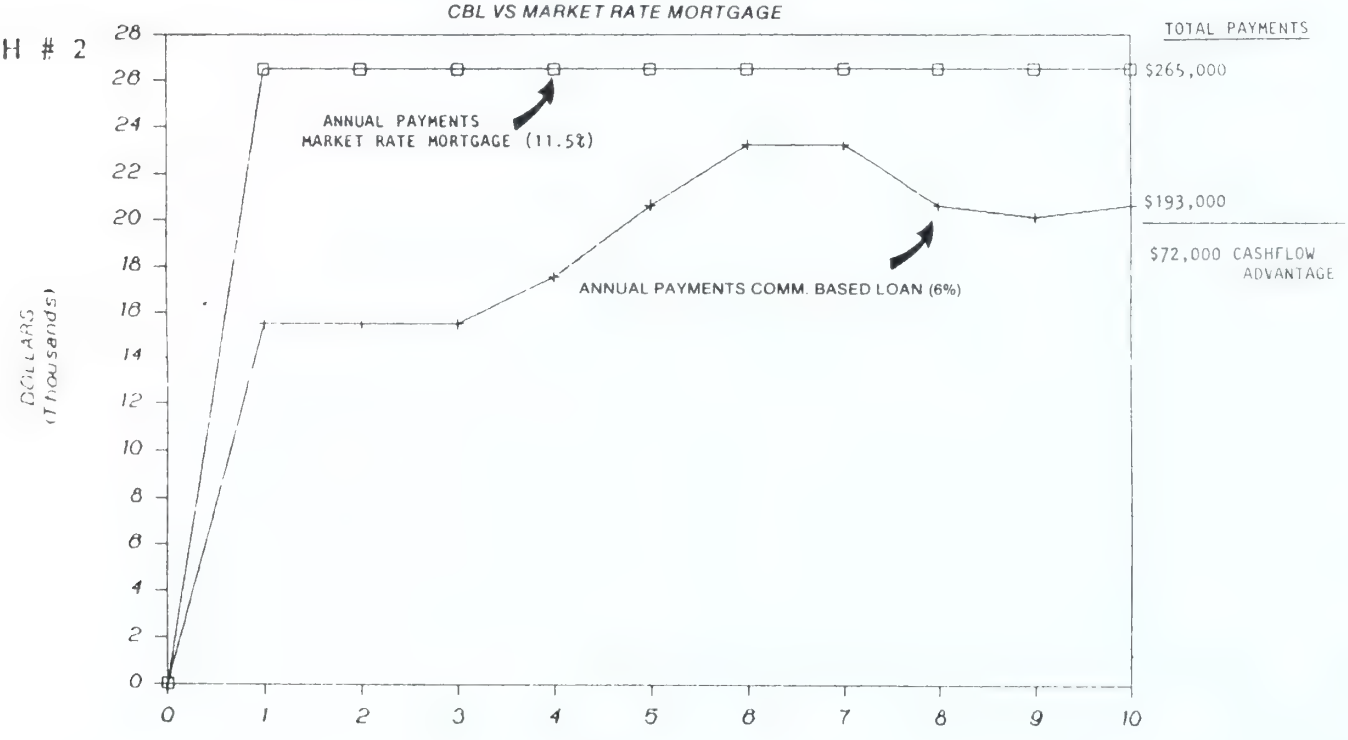


$200,000 LOAN - 20 YR. AMORTIZATION

GRAPH # 2

COMPARISON OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS

CBL VS MARKET RATE MORTGAGE

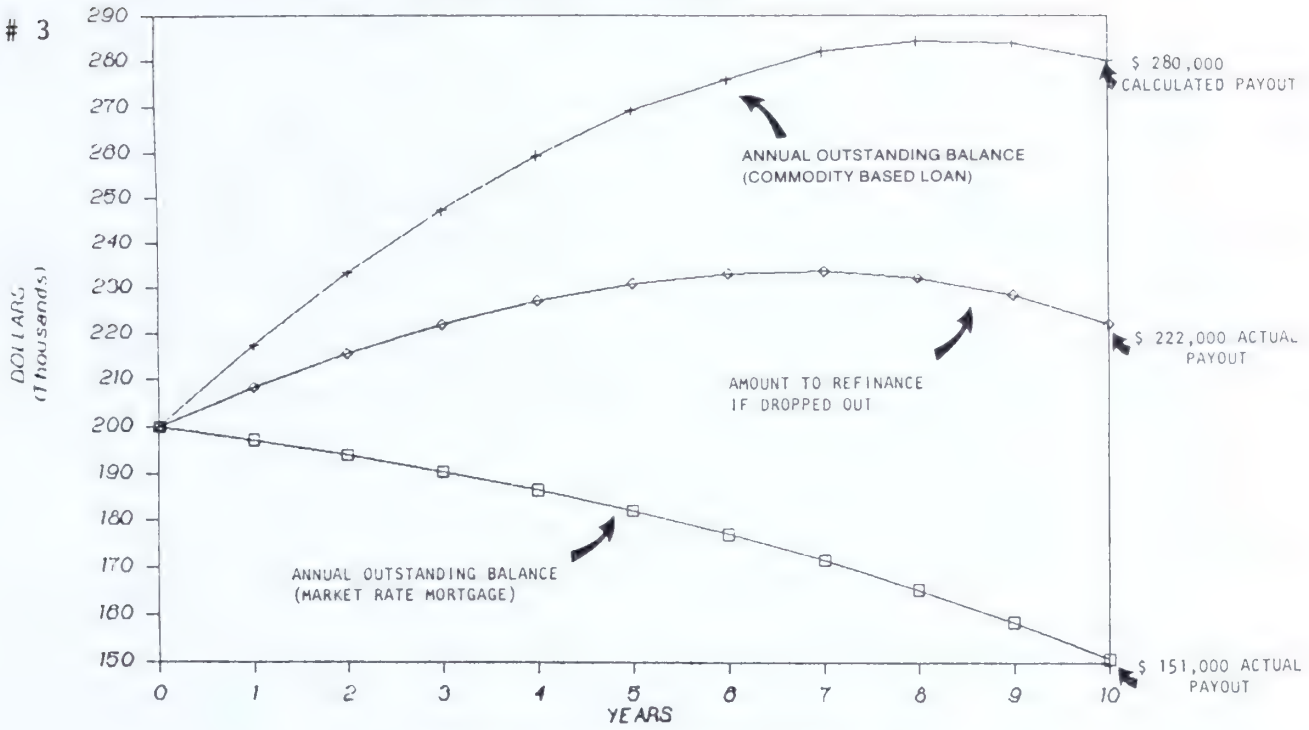


$200,000 LOAN - 20 YR. AMORTIZATION

GRAPH # 3

COMPARISON OF OUTSTANDING BALANCES

CBL VS MARKET RATE MORTGAGE

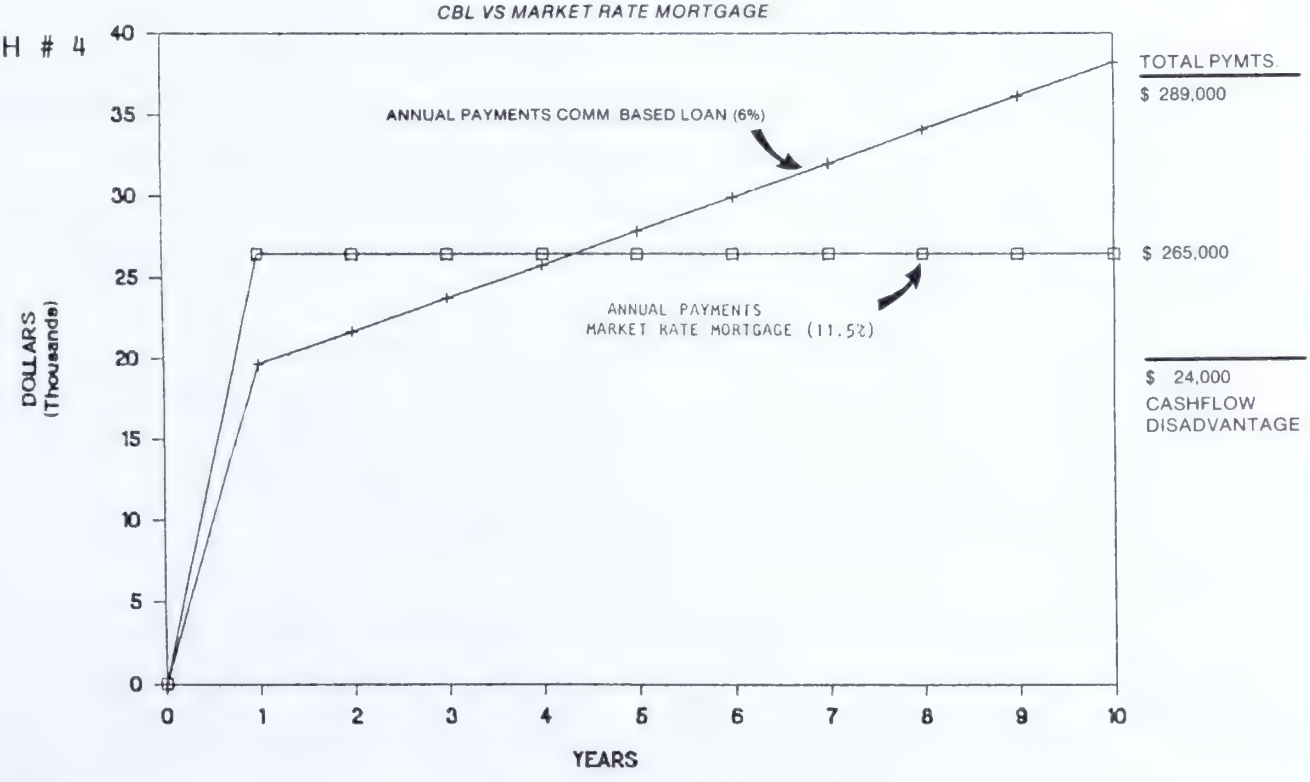


$200,000 LOAN - 20 YR. AMORTIZATION

GRAPH # 4

COMPARISON OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS

CBL VS MARKET RATE MORTGAGE



$200,000 LOAN - 20 YR. AMORTIZATION

Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch, Phone: (403) 427-2121

Give commodity-based loans a second look - Part 2 (Cont'd)

Farmer Jones' cashflow advantage from being in the program can be estimated by subtracting the sum of his payments under the indexed program from the sum of payments under a regular 11.5 per cent loan.(See Graph #2).

In this case his annual payments under the indexed program total $193,000. The sum of payments under a regular 11.5 per cent loan is $265,000. The difference is $72,000.

"In other words, Jones' total cash payments on this loan over the next 10 years would be $72,000 less, because the loan was indexed to the price of barley and the price of barley varied as Jones predicted," says Barlund.

"But what if Jones guessed wrong and barley prices increase, how bad can it be? Let's assume barley prices increase 20¢ per bushel per year over the next 10 years." (See Graph #3).

Taking barley price from the current $1.70 per bushel in 1986 to $3.70 per bushel in 1996, the calculated payout for the loan would be $280,000 at the end of 1996, although an adjustment is required.

"If Jones stayed in the program for 10 years under an increasing commodity price situation, he would actually owe FCC $222,000 in 1996, rather than the $280,000," says Barlund. "The reason being, that he would be credited the value of annual payments in excess of the registered loan rate (normal loan plus 2 per cent). In this case Jones built up a credit of $58,000 which helped reduce his outstanding balance to $222,000 in 1996."

Barlund notes the actual $222,000 payout figure is still substantially more than the $151,000 the borrower would have owed, in 1996, under the regular 11.5 per cent mortgage - $71,000 more.

Commodity-based loan payments can exceed regular loan payments if commodity prices increase at a constant annual rate. (See Graph #4)

"In this case, because barley price increased at an equal annual rate of 20¢ per bushel, per year, Jones' total payments over 10 years would be $24,000 greater than under a regular market rate (11.5%) mortgage.

(Cont'd)

"A situation of constant annual increases in commodity prices is unlikely however, and this example only illustrates what would happen under these circumstances," he says.

The question of whether to take a commodity-based loan is not an easy one to answer, particularly in view of not being able to accurately forecast future commodity prices, says Barlund.

Barring any other credit stability program, the CBL program offers tailored annual loan payments to the borrower's ability to repay.

"Borrowers with less than 50 per cent equity, who are paying 11 per cent interest or greater and foresee having difficulty in meeting annual debt payments at their present level, are advised to thoroughly analyse the pros and cons of this program with their FCC advisor," he says.

"The decision to take or not to take the CBL program should be easier after the borrower provides his best estimate of future commodity prices to his credit advisor and examines projected loan calculations."

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Contact: Doug Barlund
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August 18, 1986
For immediate release

Appointments made to grain commission

Three Albertans with strong agricultural backgrounds have been appointed to the Alberta Grain Commission, it has been announced by Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga.

Ken Beswick of the Cardston area has been named chairman, while Brian Downey of the Castor area was appointed vice-chairman and Ken Motiuk of the Mundare area was named a commission member.

"I am very pleased these men are able to serve on the Alberta Grain Commission," said Elzinga in making the announcement. "Their extensive experience and knowledge of the grain industry will contribute greatly to the effectiveness of the commission."

Serving as chairman, Beswick, is a former councillor for the Municipal District of Cardston and former director of Lethbridge Terminal Winter Wheat Ltd.

He will continue to maintain an interest in a family farm operation in southern Alberta while chairing the commission.

Downey, now vice-chairman of the commission, is a farmer in the Castor area and MLA for Stettler constituency. He also serves on the government caucus committees of education and agriculture and the house standing committees of public accounts and private bills. He is also appointed this year as an Alberta government director on the Port Churchill Development Board.

Motiuk has worked as an agricultural economist for Alberta Agriculture, served as special assistant to the Don Mazankowski, federal minister of transport and acted as associate coordinator for the Grain Transportation Authority.

Motiuk currently co-manages a family farm at Mundare.

(Cont'd)

Appointments made to grain commission (cont'd)

The Alberta Grain Commission was established in 1972. It gives advice and recommendations to the minister of agriculture on issues affecting the grains and oilseeds industry and works toward the creation of an economic environment within which all producers can maximize their income. The nine-member commission includes seven farmers and two government representatives.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 25, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

Payment made under red meat stablization plan.....1
Survey measures farm family spending.....4
Alberta shows off its best breeds.....7
Latest in equine equipment on display.....8
Getting started in preconditioning.....9
Agricultural exports drop by 23 per cent.....12
Short term substitute for permanent pasture.....14
Panel to review AADC.....16
Coming Agricultural Events.....18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Payment made under red meat stablization program

The first payment under the red meat stabilization program has been announced by the national governing committee, providing $13.20 a head for slaughter cattle.

The National Tripartite Beef Stabilization Committee says the second-quarter 1986 stabilization payment will benefit more than 5,000 producers, in three provinces, who enrolled in the plan before July 15. In Alberta there were 2,750 producers enrolled by mid-August.

The committee, composed of federal, provincial and producer representatives, directs the tripartite beef plans. The plans were designed to reduce income loss to producers by stabilizing prices.

The scheme, which has some comparisons to an insurance program, requires each participating partner to pay an equal premium.

If the national average price on the open market falls below that established through formulas, then farmers who subscribe to the program will each receive an equal payment, per animal, based on the difference between the market price and the formula price.

There are four different classes of livestock eligible under the program - hogs, lambs, slaughter cattle and feeder calves (cow-calf). There are different guidelines for each class of animals and the recent announcement applies to only the slaughter cattle class.

Fred Schuld, program administrator of the Alberta Red Meat Stabilization Program says producers who are enrolled and entitled to the second quarter payment will soon receive the necessary sales summary forms to make a claim. The forms are due by October 3.

As stated in the handbook accompanying producers' enrolment forms, any payments triggered for the first or second quarters of the initial year of the plan (1986) were not to exceed the total of the provincial and federal government's premiums (for slaughter cattle, $6.60 per head each, or $13.20).

(Cont'd).

Payment made under red meat stablization program (cont'd)

This limit was recommended by the committee and approved by the federal and participating provincial governments for both the beef and hog plans. The reason for the limit is that although the program's official start-up was January 1, 1986, producer enrolment could not be completed before mid-July so producers will only start paying premiums for the third quarter.

The limit applies only for the first and second quarters of 1986. In future, payments will be calculated using the formula developed for the plan.

The support price for the quarter was $74.37 per hundredweight and the national average market price was $70.10 per hundredweight. The support price is the current cash costs of production plus 50 per cent of the difference, or margin, between the cash costs and the average market price in the same quarter for the previous five years.

The beef committee is considering some improvements to the database used to calculate the support price so it more accurately represents production processes across Canada.

The 5,000 producers in Alberta, Ontario and Prince Edward Island enrolled by the July 15 deadline in the slaughter cattle plan represent more than half of the slaughter cattle production in the three provinces.

Schuld has provided a summary of the Alberta participants in the stablization schemes for red meat commodities:

Scheme	No. of producers enrolled	Estimated % of Alberta's total production
Cow-calf	3,900	20
Slaughter cattle	2,750	70 - 75
Lambs	180	30 - 35
Hogs	2,550	80

(Cont'd)

Payment made under red meat stabilization program (cont'd)

Support levels and payouts have been determined for slaughter cattle and hogs for the first and second quarters of 1986. The figures are as follows:

Scheme	Quarter 1986	National Average Market Price	Price Support Level	Payout Per cwt	Payout Per head
Slaughter cattle	Jan - March	$71.99	$71.47	0.0	0.0
	Apr - June	$70.10	$74.37	N/A	$13.20 (max)
Hogs	Jan - Mar	$69.18	$66.97	0.0	0.0
	Apr - June	$72.32	$69.76	0.0	0.0

For further information on the payout figures or the stabilization program contact The Alberta Red Meat Stablization Office, Alberta Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, 9th Floor, Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton, Alberta, or call toll-free using the RITE number 422-0137.

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August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Survey measures farm family spending

If 62 households in northeast Alberta are any indication, Alberta farm families spend an average of $25,800 a year to meet living expenses such as food, clothing and shelter.

The 1985 survey does not provide any conclusive data, says Alberta Agriculture specialist Jean Wilson, but it does give a ballpark picture of what it costs farm families to live.

The total includes an average $3,820 for capital purchases such as cars or appliances. But the figures do not deal with business related expenses such as buying tractors, livestock and planting crops.

A more detailed province-wide survey being done this year may shatter the belief that it costs less to live on a farm than it does in a town or city.

The survey of 62 households, organized by Wilson who is a family resource management speicalist with the home economics branch in Edmonton and Edith Zawadiuk, regional home economist in Two Hills, asked the families to keep track of expenses for a year.

"I think a lot of farm families tend to underestimate what it does cost to live," says Wilson. "Generally people have believed it's cheaper to live on the farm because food and housing costs may be lower.

"The smaller survey completed last year and the province wide survey being conducted this year may prove this not to be true. We may find out although some costs are lower, others are higher."

In the 1985 survey 13 district home economists arranged for 62 farm housewives to keep track of household expenditures for a year. In the 1986 survey, district home economists in all parts of the province have organized 400 farm families to keep track of their costs in a more detailed household expenditure survey.

(Cont'd)

Survey measures farm family spending (cont'd)

"The point of all this is to come up with some realistic figures so farmers budgeting for next year can make allowance for living expenses," says Wilson. "If it is costing the average family $25,000 a year to live that's an appreciable amount of money that should be included in any planning."

In the northeast Alberta survey, which should generally reflect conditions province-wide, 62 farm wives were enlisted to keep track of expenditures. The average level of education for both the respondent and the spouse was high school. The average family size was 4.5 people.

While the average expenditure in this survey was $25,800 a federal Statistics Canada survey in 1982 of nearly 11,000 farm and urban families, averaging 2.72 people, showed expenditures averaged $22,226.

The average number of years farming was 15 for the respondents and 18 for the spouses. The majority listed grain as the major crop and the average number of acres farmed was 1,271 with 783 acres owned and 647 acres rented.

Twenty-five of the farm wives had off-farm employment, with 84 per cent of the jobs being part time. About half of them indicated they earned less than $4,999 a year from the off-farm work.

Twenty of the farm husbands surveyed had off-farm employment, with 55 per cent indicating their employment was part-time. More than 50 per cent of those with off-farm income earned more than $15,000.

The survey showed the average gross farm income at $115,600. Total average living expenditures amounted to $25,844.

A breakdown of expenditures is as follows:

Food at home, $4,607; food away from home, $591; shelter, $3,568; household operation, $1,523; household furniture and equipment, $1,098; clothing $2,156; transportation, $4,150; medical and health, $890; personal care, $460; recreation, entertainment, education, $2,221; tobacco and alcohol, $518; miscellaneous, $639; security (such as savings and pension plans), $1,501 and gifts $1,575.

(Cont'd)

Survey measures farm family spending (cont'd)

The northeast survey showed farm couples in the child bearing years spent an average of $25,762 on living expenses, while households with school age children spent $25,360 annually. Older farm couples with grown children spent $28,695 on living expenses.

The survey also noted the more children in the family, the less money spent annually on living expenses.

Families with less than four children spent an average $22,975 annually, while families with six children or more spent $20,749 annually.

In the province-wide survey this year, being funded by a Farming for the Future grant, each district home economist will work with six farm families in collecting expenditure data.

"Record keeping like this involves a great deal of work for the participating families," says Wilson. "But it is through this effort we'll be able to get a better handle on expenses to help in the overall farm planning process."

For more information on the survey contact a district home economist or Jean Wilson at 427-2412.

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Contact: Jean Wilson
427-2412

August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Alberta shows off its best horse breeds

The best line of horses in Alberta will be presented to an estimated 80,000 visitors in Calgary in September in conjunction with the Spruce Meadows Masters show jumping competition.

Fifteen breeds of horses, from ponies to draught horses will be on display in the Alberta Breeds For The World show in the Spruce Meadows Breeders Hall, says Bob Coleman, an Alberta Agriculture horse specialist

"It is a chance for local people as well as international visitors to see the quality of animals we have here, establish contacts and get information on the different breeds."

As part of the showcase there will be display areas, information will be available and top purebred animals, representing the different breeds, will be shown.

There will be daily presentations by breed with a commentary describing the features of the horses in action.

The Alberta Breeds will run during the five days of international show jumping competition from September 10 to 14. The breeders hall will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For more information on the Alberta breeders show contact Bob Coleman at 436-9150 or Les Burwash at 291-4596.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
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August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Latest in equine equipment on display

The latest line of equipment and supplies serving the horse industry will be on display in Calgary next month at the third Equi-Fair held in conjunction with the Spruce Meadows Masters.

Manufacturers from seven countries will participate in the equine industry trade fair, says Bob Coleman an Alberta Agriculture horse specialist.

Horse enthusiasts, whether they have one animal used for the occasional ride around the back 40 or are serious horse breeders, will find something of interest at the five day show.

On display will be everything from new feeds, to riding equipment, general care products, fencing materials, veterinarian products and barn equipment from stable brooms to whirlpools.

"The latest in technology available to the horse industry will be featured in this show case," says Coleman.

The Equi-Fair will run from September 10 to 14 and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The trade fair is held in conjunction with the Masters, the largest show jumping competition in the world.

The Masters features the top international riders competing for $400,000 in prize money. The show jumping runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily during the September 10 to 14 event.

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August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Getting started with preconditioning

There are about eight basic steps livestock producers should be getting organized if they plan to precondition calves this fall.

Brian Harris, coordinator of the Alberta Certified Preconditioning Feeder (ACPF) program says if producers are going to catch the October and November sales they should begin planning now.

The calves need at least 45 days on the program before heading to the auction mart.

The preconditioning program involves weaning calves early and putting them on good rations well in advance of sale day to better prepare the animals for the stress of being hauled, handled and put into a feed lot.

The producer will end up with a heavier calf on sale day and the buyer is going to get a stronger, healthier animal which should begin gaining weight quickly.

The livestock producer should gain not only by having heavier calves to sell but also will receive a premium price for preconditioned calves. To qualify for the bonus the producer must have registered and followed the program which is certified by the local veterinarian.

Among the steps Harris says to be taken first, the producer should find out the sale date and location and decide on the day to process or vaccinate, tag and finish off any dehorning or castration. Processing must be completed no less than three weeks before sale day.

He should contact the veterinarian who will get tags and certificates from the local district agriculturist. (The veterinarian visit to certify the calves is paid for by Alberta Agriculture for the first three years the producer is on the program).

The calves have to be weaned and on the program at least 45 days before sale day, but Harris recommends doing some of the preparation work with the calves two months before the sale gives better results.

(Cont'd)

Getting started with preconditioning (cont'd)

He suggests processing the calves 70 days before sale and putting them back with the cows for a couple weeks before weaning.

Processing should include vaccination with IBR/PI^3 (red nose) and seven-way or eight-way clostridial. It should also include warble treatment, completion of castration and dehorning, removal of all regular ear tags and replacing with green ACPF tags in the right ear.

"It might also be to your advantage to implant at this time," says Harris. "The calves should then be turned back on the cows for another 10 to 14 days. Feeding the cows and calves in the weaning area helps to familiarize the calves with feed bunks and automatic waterers, making it much easier to wean and start them on feed."

The calves should be weaned and started on good feed a minimum of 45 days before sale, although again Harris suggest 60 days before sale will give the best results.

"Start the calves on a grain ration of one to two pounds per head per day plus good hay or silage and work the calves up to five or six pounds by the second week," says the coordinator.

The grain ration should consist of good quality oats, or an oat-barley mix plus a good quality supplement to balance the protein, a trace mineral salt and in some cases extra vitamins should be provided.

"When starting the calves on grain be sure all the calves are eating," says Harris. "If only a few calves are eating most of the grain, try limiting the hay or feeding the grain for only a short time each day to prevent aggressive calves from overeating."

Most calves should gain more than two pounds per day during the preconditioning period. Make sure the calves don't get too fat or they will be discounted on sale day.

"With growthy calves and a well balanced ration it is amazing how much grain these calves can handle and how fast they will gain without getting fat," he says.

(Cont'd)

Getting started with preconditioning (cont'd)

The day before the sale it is suggested the producer cut back on grain and fill the calves with good grass hay only. When trucking the calves be sure the truck is clean and well bedded. Do not over crowd. This should ensure the calves arrive at the sale in a presentable condition.

"When being shipped for sale be sure a copy of the preconditioning certificate is attached to the manifest," says Harris. " It is required by the district agriculturist to make up the sale catalogue for the buyer. All the effort that has been put into preconditioning should pay off on sale day. The final step is just to sit back and count your money."

For more information on the program contact a district agriculturist, veterinarian or auction sale manager.

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Contact: Brian Harris
340-5336

August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Agricultural exports drop by 23 per cent

With the exception of meat, Alberta's agricultural exports were down sharply in 1985 according to figures released by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

"The value of Alberta's out-of-country exports in 1985 were $1.75 billion down a substantial 23.5 per cent over 1984," says statistician Bill Schissel.

The figures reflect a national trend which saw all Canadian agricultural exports down about 13 per cent over 1984.

The greatest drop in provincial exports came from decreased sales of grains and oilseeds, particularly barley and wheat.

Wheat was still the dominant export commodity in 1985 commanding $822 million which was 47 per cent of the total provincial agricultural exports. This was down from 50 per cent in 1984.

Barley exports dropped substantially to $123 million in 1985 from $284 million in 1984. Barley went from being 12.7 per cent of agricultural export earnings to 7 per cent.

"Reduced imports by the U.S.S.R. and East Germany and the failure of the People's Republic of China to import any Canadian barley contributed to this significant decline," says Schissel.

Although the dollar figure was down, the percentage of live cattle exports increased in 1985. Sales went from $94 million in 1984 to $82 million in 1985. But the earnings from live cattle exports represented 4.6 per cent of sales in 1985, compared to 4.1 per cent in 1984.

"The bright spot on the provincial picture was meat exports," says the statistician. "In 1985 these amounted to $155 million or almost 9 per cent of the provincial agricultural export total. In 1984 meat exports amounted to $91 million or 4 per cent of the provincial total."

(Cont'd)

Agricultural exports drop by 23 per cent (cont'd)

This increase, according to Schissel, was due mainly to increased exports of pork to the United States and beef to the United States and Japan. The increase in meat sales more than offset the 1985 decrease in live animal exports.

Alberta's agricultural exports last year accounted for about 18.3 per cent of the Canadian total, which was a 1.7 per cent decrease over 1984.

The leading importer of Alberta agricultural commodities in 1985 was Japan, buying more than $380 million worth of goods. This was down from $461 million in 1984.

Other leading trade partners were the United States with $346 million; People's Republic of China, $221 million; U.S.S.R, $206 million; Brazil, $72 million; India, $61 million and Egypt $50 million.

"Together these seven countries accounted for 76.3 per cent of Alberta's agricultural exports," says Schissel.

Other major buyers were Algeria, Cuba, East Germany, United Kingdom and Mexico.

Along with grains, oilseeds, live animals and meats, the province's other major agricultural exports include cattle hides, dehydrated alfalfa, honey, barley malt, tallow, whiskey and peat moss.

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Contact: Bill Schissel
427-4011

August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Short term substitute for permanent pasture

Livestock producers who occasionally run short of permanent pasture will be interested in the results, this fall, in what weight cattle gained grazing wheat, oats and rye pasture.

The grazing trials, using annual plants, are being tried in two separate blocks totalling 120 acres, in the Lac La Biche area, this summer.

Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist Harvey Yoder says the trials, being conducted on private land, should answer some questions about how productive annuals are for pasture.

Yoder says seeding and grazing grain crops probably would not be a long term solution to permanent-pasture shortages, but it could provide a farmer or rancher with some management options.

The on-farm demonstrations are being funded through a Farming for the Future grant and money provided by the local agricultural service board.

The grazing trials will compare the production of different seedings: spring seeded fall rye; spring seeded winter wheat and oats.

The fall rye and winter wheat are being used because in the first year after seeding they will only grow to about eight inches and won't head out. They can be grazed off and and allowed to regrow making good summer and fall pasture. Oats has generally been regarded as a high producer in this area.

Yoder says there are several reasons a farmer runs short of permanent pasture.

Because of drought or overgrazing, the farmer may want to give permanent pastures a rest. The farmer may be starting a rotational grazing system and needs some extra pasture to supplement permanent pasture or maybe permanent pasture is being torn up and reseeded.

(Cont'd)

Short term substitute for permanent pasture (cont'd)

There are about 150 head of cattle involved in the two demonstrations. Heifers are being grazed on one trial and cows with calves are pasturing another.

During the trial Yoder will be monitoring the days of grazing and pounds of beef produced.

"It should show if pasturing annuals is the route to go," says Yoder.

In the two on-farm demonstrations, both farmers were re-developing permanent pastures and would have either sold part of the herds or faced the cost of hauling cattle and renting pasture elsewhere.

"The cost of establishing annual pasture every year is fairly great compared to permanent pasture," says Yoder. "The cost of a pound of gain on annual pasture is also probably higher than on permanent pasture. But probably it is a cheaper solution than selling off part of the herd or hauling cattle to rented pasture somewhere else. We should have some answers this fall."

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Contact: Harvey Yoder
623-5218

August 25, 1986
For immediate release

Panel to review AADC

The role and mandate of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) will be reviewed by an eight-member committee appointed by Shirley Cripps, associate minister of Alberta Agriculture.

Chaired by Didsbury farmer and economist, Lloyd Quantz, the committee will hold public forums around the province to receive input from anyone concerned about agriculture credit.

The associate minister says the appointment of the review committee fulfills a comittment made by the government in the Speech from the Throne in April.

"Because of the many uncertainties facing producers in the industry it is important to have a total review of agricultural credit - a major input cost for many farmers."

It is expected through this review a long term approach can be determined for government initiatives that would appropriately serve the financial needs of Alberta's farmers and agribusinesses.

"All aspects of AADC will be examined," says the associate minister. "A series of public forums will be held to review submissions as they relate to AADC's operations, present and future. It is expected that all farm organizations, interested individuals, companies, agribusinessess or anyone affected by agriculture credit having concerns, will submit briefs at public forums expressing their viewpoint."

Quantz, has a master's of science degree in agriculture economics from the University of Alberta and is president of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

Serving on the committee along with the chairman are four private citizens and three MLAs, all with extensive farm and business backgrounds.

Larry Greer of High Prairie holds a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and operates a family farm in the High Prairie area.

(Cont"d)

Panel to review AADC (cont'd)

Alice Brown of Kathryn is a farm wife active in several associations and committees dealing with farm issues and is president of the First Alberta Farm Women's Conference Committee organized in January 1986.

Frank Spanbauer is an irrigation farmer in the Barnwell area where he has operated a family farm since 1963. He is past president of the Soft Wheat Growers Local District #3.

John Krall, a grain farmer from Nampa, has had extensive experience in direct farm lending.

Government committee members include Doug Cherry, MLA Lloydminister who has an agricultural background and is a former county councillor, Jim Heron, MLA Stony Plain, who has a master's of business administration degree from the U of A and has experience in the investment and business community and Brian Downey, MLA Stettler, who has experience in banking as well as operating the family farm in the Castor area.

"I am confident that with the calibre of people chosen, the review will be complete and realistic," says Cripps. "It is anticipated that it will reflect the financial needs of the agriculture community and the best way of meeting those needs."

Times, dates and locations of the proposed meetings have yet to be announced.

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Contact: Bard Haddrell
422-9156
Lloyd Quantz
295-2995

Coming Agricultural Events

1986

Food Pacific
International Food Show
B.C. Place.....August 28 - September 2
Fran Cullen, Edmonton - 427-4241

Agtranspo '86
A conference on the distribution of agricultural products
to Pacific Rim countries
The Westin Bayshore Hotel
Vancouver, British Columbia.....September 2 - 4
Information - (613) 995-5880

Alberta Corn Growers Tour
Medicine Hat & Area.....September 8
Blair Roth, Lethbridge - 381-5127

Alberta Horse Improvement Program
Westerner Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer.....September 20 - 21
Les Burwash, Calgary - 291-4596

Lambs in Lacombe
Family fair and commerical ewe lamb sale
Exhibition Grounds, Lacombe.....September 20
John Hull

National Dairy Council of Canada
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta.....September 21 - 24
Dale Tullock, Ottawa - (613) 238-4116

Alberta Horse Improvement Program
Westerner Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer.....September 27 -28
Les Burwash, Calgary - 291-4596

Agritech Exhibition & Professional Agriculture Tours
Tel Aviv, Israel.....September
Yaffa Dattner - (403) 228-3310

1986 Alberta Feed Industry Conference
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta.....October 9 - 10
Bob Lowe, High River 652-7272

Poultry Producers Seminar
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta.....October 10
Rod Chernos, Airdrie - 948-5101

(Cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

National Outstanding Young Farmer Recognition Program
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta.....October 21 - 25
Glen Purdy, Calgary - 280-3131 or 232-3031

Alberta Beekeepers Association Annual Convention
Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta.....November 5,6,7
Louise Swaenepoel

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association Annual Conference
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta.....November 17
Gordon Zoebell, Raymond - 752-3511

Western Provincial Conference
Moisture Management in Crop Production
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta.....November 18, 19, 20
Dave Neilson, Edmonton - 422-4385
Russ Lewis, Calgary - 297-5952

Changes and Challenges
Farm Women's Conference
Grande Prairie, Alberta.....November 19, 20
Therese Beaudoin, Falher - 837-2211

Annual conveniton of the Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta
Nisku Inn
Nisku, Alberta.....November 27
Ted Koopmans - 428-6981

Coming events 1987

Unifarm Annual Convention
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta.....January 12 - 15
Willow Webb - 451-5912

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
15th General Meeting and Convention
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta.....January 16 - 17
Don Saynor, Calgary - 250-2509

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit
(MATFP) Conference
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta.....March 29 - April 1
Gerd Andres, Olds - 556-4240

(Cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in December 1986 and January and February 1987, or any events omitted in the attached list?

2. What are the dates? Please be sure to state whether 1986 or 1987.

3. Where are they being held? Please state the hotel if known.

4. Please be sure to state the name, address and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by November 1, 1986 to:

Print Media Branch
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events are published quarterly in Agri-News. The next edition will be November 24, 1986.)